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EAW AX & MK Series Loudspeakers Chosen For New Distributed Sound Reinforcement System At Calgary's Olympic Oval EAW Smart v.6 Also Plays Crucial Role In System Alignment

Whitinsville, MA – September 5, 2007 - More than 60 EAW AX Series and MK Series full-range loudspeakers were recently installed as the key components of a new facility-wide distributed sound reinforcement system at the Olympic Oval in Calgary, a premier speed skating site and training facility, with new EAW Smart version 6 (v.6) also utilized for the crucial system alignment process.

Constructed for the 1988 Winter Olympic Games, the 10,000-seat venue continues to serve as a premier speed skating site in addition to hosting a wide range of athletic practices and events that keep it in constant use seven days a week. It offers a structure of pre-cast, pre-stressed concrete that completely covers a long-track speed skating oval encircling two international sized ice rinks for short-track speed skating and ice hockey, with the long-track surrounded by a running track.

The new sound system at the Oval replaces the outdated original system that relied upon a main centralized loudspeaker cluster, requiring supplemental rental systems to meet major-event expectations. Seeking a permanent solution, Olympic Oval Director of Operations Kameron Kiland began discussions with Allstar Show Industries, a leading integrator with offices in Calgary, regarding a new system to provide dramatically improved coverage to the grandstand and portable seating areas, as well as the ability to simultaneously support multiple events.

McConaghy notes that EAW attracted his interest because of its deep line of installation loudspeakers capable of meeting the unique high output and directivity requirements of this project, furthered by the support of the Application Support Group (ASG), an EAW team of experienced audio professionals that supply design support and review. SF Marketing, EAW's distributor in Canada, provided additional support, and they also enlisted Arthur Skudra, a veteran electro-acoustic design consultant based in Windsor, to focus on loudspeaker selection, location and positioning throughout the entire venue.

Two ceiling catwalks (an "inner" and "outer" catwalk) running above the oval surface proved quite opportune as mounting positions for most of the system's 66 EAW AX Series (longer throw) and MK Series (shorter throw) full-range loudspeakers. They're positioned to cover at least a dozen different areas that are broken down into individual zones, with both series of loudspeakers offering a variety of coverage patterns that fit the often-unique dispersion requirements of certain areas.

The six-week system installation process was headed up by Keith Watson of Allstar, with the venue's constant use every day of the week dictating workdays starting at 10 pm and lasting until 5 am. Skudra returned to the venue immediately following installation to perform two nights of system tuning and optimization, utilizing new EAW Smart v.6 measurement and analysis software.

Specifically, he deployed Smart v.6 on his MacBook Pro computer, noting, "this proved to be a really awesome combination. I was easily able to set time delays in such a way that the system is very transparent in terms of imaging, which can be a problem in such a huge venue and with such a huge system."

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About EAW

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