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News

InNEWS

2wcom Brings 4audio Series To IBC2019

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GER: 2wcom has unveiled its IBC2019 line-up which will include the 4audio series. Compatibility, audio quality, flexibility, simplicity and transmission robustness are the current top five buzzwords, and the demand on software-based or virtualised solutions is growing. Broadcasters need solutions that support studio-to-studio, studio-to-transmitter links and cross-media tasks. The new Linux-based, modular and scalable technological concept offer a wide range of useful features and support broadcasters taking the challenge to harmonise old and new technologies and navigate to the next generation of audio.

2wcom's recently launched 4audio IP series eases the day-to-day work of network operators and comprises products like IP-4c four-channel codec, IP-8e eight-channel IP/MPEG encoder and MoIN Multimedia over IP network server. Further variants will be coming soon. Each device is available as hardware or virtualised software. Its new and well thought-out technological concept assures outstanding flexibility in application to meet the stated requirements.

High-level compatibility is important in mixed networks and expanded infrastructures. For this purpose, all major protocols for internet interoperability like Ravenna, Livewire+, Dante or SRT are supported. Harmonisation of data exchange between the protocols is achieved by standards like EBU N/ACIP Tech 3326, AES67, SMPTE ST 2110, SMPTE 2022-7, NMOS and Ember+. To easily exchange data in mixed networks the solutions offer protocol transforming, e.g. from Livewire+ to Ravenna when transmitting from a studio site to the headend.
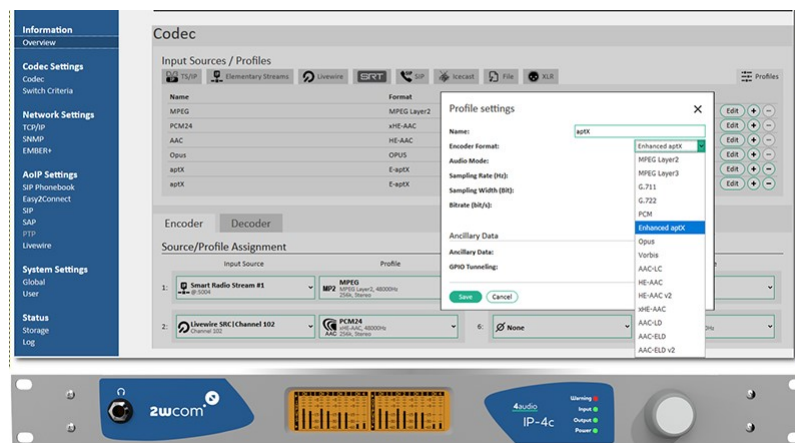
Eying the upcoming cross-media tasks, customers benefit from an integrated transcoding feature, which allows the provision of all main codec algorithms, according to requirements. For high quality and low latency of real-time applications, this can mean PCM to Opus. For economical needs, like dealing with low bandwidth or uploading files to a station website transcoding to, for example, AAC profiles (even AAC xHE), Enhanced aptX or Ogg Vorbis is possible.

The flexible management of recorded audio content allows the combination of individual audio streams into multichannel streams. Facing, for example, events, this can include audio from the stage, sideline or grandstand, or even speaker comments. In local studios, the decoder solutions offer audio/data exchange capabilities for regionalisation of the received main stream. To ensure the precisely synchronised routing of different streams between linked networks and a good latency management, Moin, IP-4c and IP-8e support the Precision Time Protocol (PTPv2).

In addition, all solutions assist the teams on-site in daily operation. In case an event requires further temporary channels, a corresponding channel activation scalability is possible. Pre-configuration of hardware and software for operation, management and control is provided via an easy-to-use web interface and remotely via SNMP, Ember+ or JSON. A SIP phonebook simplifies intercommunication in networks by enabling to establish connection and to negotiate codec algorithms as well as protocols. SIP entries and status information accessible via a web interface and at the hardware grant flexibility to reporters in the field if WLAN is not available. Supporting DHCP increases the independence of production teams by permitting the automatic allocation of IP addresses, helping to avoid the need to request an IP address from the Help Desk.

A multi-layer concept ensures transmission robustness. Hardware devices are equipped with up to two in or external power supplies. Protection against IP packet loss offers Pro-MPEG FEC or Reliable User Datagram Protocol, which is more effective and more economical in means of bandwidth. Further redundancy is achievable by transmitting two streams or different audio qualities in parallel. In case of interruption of the main stream, IP packet losses can be recovered by picking them from the second stream or the respective receivers switch seamless to the next audio quality.

See 2wcom at IBC2019, stand 8.E78.

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