

EQUIPMENT

AUDIO

- 1 Allen & Heath dLive DM32 32x16 MixRack
- 3 Allen & Heath dLive DM48 48x24 MixRacks
- 2 Allen & Heath dLive DM64 64x32 MixRacks
- 2 Allen & Heath dLive S5000 28 fader control surfaces
- 3 Allen & Heath dLive S7000 36 fader control surfaces
- 5 Allen & Heath M-Dante iLive I/O Cards
- 6 Allen & Heath M-DL-ADAPT "letter-box" Adapter Module for I/O Cards
- 4 Allen & Heath M-DL-GACE gigaACE dLive Audio Networking Cards
- 1 BSS Audio Soundweb London BLU-806DA signal processor
- 2 Crown DCi 2|300N power amps
- 27 Crown DCi 4|2400N power amps
- 1 Crown DCi 4|300N power amp
- 1 Crown DCi 8|600N power amp
- 15 Crown I-Tech 4x3500HD power amps
- 8 JBL ASB6128 high-power subwoofers
- 8 JBL PD6200/43 Precision Directivity speakers
- 24 JBL PD6322/43 Precision Directivity speakers
- 4 JBL PD6322/64 Precision Directivity speakers
- 30 JBL PD6322/66 Precision Directivity speakers
- 10 JBL VTX S28 subwoofers
- 20 JBL VTX V20 line-array elements
- 8 Shure MX185 lavalier mics
- 8 Shure P10R wireless diversity bodypack receivers
- 4 Shure P10T dual-channel wireless transmitters
- 2 Shure PA805SWB directional antennas
- 1 Shure PA821A antenna combiner
- 1 Shure QLXD24/SM58 handheld wireless mic system
- 8 Shure SE425-V sound-isolating earphones
- 5 Shure UA221 passive antenna splitter/combiner kits
- 6 Shure UA834WB in-line antenna amps
- 2 Shure UA860SWB passive omnidirectional antennas
- 16 Shure ULXD1 wireless bodypack transmitters
- 8 Shure ULXD2/K8B handheld wireless mic transmitters
- 3 Shure ULXD2/SM86 handheld wireless mic transmitters
- 8 Shure ULXD2/KSM9 handheld wireless mic transmitters
- 1 Shure ULXD4 digital wireless receiver
- 1 Shure ULXD4D dual-channel digital wireless receiver
- 4 Shure ULXD4Q quad-channel digital wireless receivers
- 8 Shure WCE6BD Countryman E6 earset mics
- 1 Skjonberg CS-400R motor controller
- 1 Skjonberg P4-HCS-D handheld remote
- 1 Skjonberg PIJ-REM remote control panel

NETWORK

- 10 Cisco MGBSX1 gigabit SX mini-GBIC SFP transceivers
- 7 Cisco SG300 managed switches
- 3 Cisco SG500 managed switches
- 2 Crestron CP3 3-Series control processors

VIDEO

- 2 Blackmagic Design BDLKULSR4K/2 UltraStudio 4K Thunderbolt 2 devices
- 1 Panasonic AV-HS6000 2ME live switcher
- 340 Planar Leyard CarbonLight CLI5.2D indoor LED videowall panels
- 4 Planar Leyard VSP-F2L4 video controllers
- 5 Planar Leyard SDV08 signal distribution units
- 6 Planar Leyard PDV09 AC power distribution units

List is edited from information supplied by Ford Audio-Video, LLC.

ing to McDaniel, those pieces make distribution of the signals much simpler than it would otherwise be. As implemented at the arena, fiberoptic cabling distributes signal between the VSP-F2L4 processors located in the video-production room and the Planar SDV08 units located at the videowalls.

"The LED walls' ability to map various resolutions presents both challenges and opportunities to present whatever you can dream up," McDaniel noted. Blackmagic Design UltraStudio 4K Thunderbolt 2 capture and playback units are used to accommodate computer video, and the incoming video signal for the videowall is provided by a Panasonic AV-HS6000U2 video-production switcher.

One of the challenges the team encountered during installation was that the Planar VSP-F2L4 processors would not align properly with the video signal from the Panasonic switcher. "Fortunately," McDaniel stated, "a Decimator MD-HX cross convertor was able to resolve the issues between the two pieces. These little red boxes are a lifesavers!"

Measures Of Success

Ramsey and the Cypress-Fairbanks Independent School District are pleased with the result of Ford AV's technology upgrade at the Berry Center Arena. An upgraded and more versatile distributed audio system, an expanded IT infrastructure that connects audio consoles throughout the complex, reconfigurable high-resolution videowalls and a fully functioning production control room have improved both the media experience for attendees and the workflow for the media team.

Apart from ease of use, the recent upgrades to the arena's IT infrastructure allow Ramsey and his team to be more effective. Now, they can easily share audio sources and destinations throughout the facility, as well as create multi-track audio and video recordings of meetings, events and training sessions for the district's 15,000 employees.

"Better connectivity provides us with a lot of added functionality," Ramsey noted. "That allows us to both operate more efficiently and offer more in-demand professional services."

Ramsey knows that the real proof of a successful upgrade lies with his audience. "We knew the project was a success," he explained, "after our first event. It was a banquet for about 1,000 people, many of whom had attended events here before. Afterward, people asked us how we made it sound so good."

As further evidence of the arena's ultimate flexibility, the space was used as a major relief location for the county during the Hurricane Harvey disaster. "We were happy to see that the facility was serving the community in that time of need," Hill recalled, having seen the team's designs at work on the evening news. "Cartoons were playing on the videowalls for the kids, giving some level of comfort to children and displaced families. It was great to see."

