HERE COMES SUMMER
The firms and the gear taking centre stage at this year’s biggest festivals

ALLEN & HEATH
Life after the D&M merger

STUDIO MONITORS
The latest trends, the best products
EVENT REVIEW: NAB

A bustling 2008 NAB show closed on April 17th, having clocked up a record international attendance of 28,310 people from over 160 countries. Registered attendance was over 105,000 – 1,296 of them media delegates.

“These figures demonstrate convincingly the staying power of the NAB Show brand,” said NAB executive vice president Dennis Wharton. “The record international attendance is proof positive that the NAB Show is truly the undisputed global leader in the content marketplace.”

Academy Award-winning actor and acclaimed director Tim Robbins delivered the show’s opening keynote at the Las Vegas Convention Center. He discussed the changing face of entertainment and how new distribution and content creation opportunities will impact Hollywood and other industries.

Of more than 1,600 companies that exhibited at this year’s show, 550 were headquartered outside the United States, up from 470 last year. Some companies showcased in international pavilions, including the Bavarian, Belgian, Chinese and UK ‘@NAB’ pavilions. Brazil and India had a presence on the exhibition floor for the first time.

NAB executive VP of conventions and business operations, Chris Brown noted: “An increasing number of countries around the world are recognising the NAB Show, not just as a radio and TV broadcasting show, but as the global business to business event for the entire electronic media industry.”

Among notable exhibitors at the show was Audio Technica, who introduced its AT8004 and AT8004L omnidirectional dynamic microphones, designed specifically for the broadcast market. Based on extensive in-the-field research and user input, the new AT8004 and AT8004L further demonstrate the company’s increasing interest in this market sector. Both mics are designed for handheld interviews, ENG/EFP and sports broadcasting applications, or as the mono mic when used in conjunction with a stereo mic.

Connector manufacturer Neutrik unveiled its enhanced 32 Amp PowerCon and an IP65 rated OpticalCon at NAB 2008. The new PowerCon is designed for the demanding current handling and power transfer required for high-power broadcast distribution systems. The new OpticalCon is dust and waterproof. This extends the outdoor capabilities of the connector, making it ideal for mobile trucks and other outdoor broadcast settings.

Euphonix introduced a new modular remote audio interface solution for broadcast applications featuring redundant fibre audio connectivity and control. The new solution connects multiple high-density stage boxes into the Euphonix DSP SuperCore via the MADI protocol over fibre with control directly from the console’s channel strips. The company also announced that its digital audio mixing systems for broadcast now integrate with the Ross OverDrive production control system to offer more consistent and sophisticated production.

Prism Sound demonstrated new software for its dScope Series III audio analyser. The Version 1.2 software represents a major upgrade to the functionality of the dScope Series III unit. Many new features have been added at the request of the audio test community, including new tools for acoustic measurements, PC audio and 192kHz sampling on digital audio interfaces. Using dScope, measurements such as THD+N can be monitored with high precision in real time for evidence of any glitches and the results logged to file.

NAB 2008 also saw the results of a collaboration between leading studio microphone manufacturer Neumann and UK digital mixing console firm DiGiCo. The companies have made it possible for Neumann’s digital microphones to work in conjunction with digital workstations. DiGiCo’s desks. This follows Neumann’s 2001 unveiling of its Solution-D generation digital microphones. These conformed to the new AES 42 data transmission protocol to allow its digital mics to work in conjunction with digital workstations.

What happened in Vegas

... doesn’t have to stay in Vegas, thanks to Rob Hughes’ report of the National Association of Broadcasters Show...