NEXO LAUNCHES THE NXAMP MKII

Following the BPM I PRO launch of NEXO's latest offering, the NXAMP MK II, TPi spoke to R&D Director Joseph Carcopino about the key features of this new product.

Available in 4 X 1300W and 4 X 2500W versions, the NXAMP MK II combines advanced signal processing with 4 state of the art Class D amplifiers to create new flexible, light-weight powering and control solutions for NEXO loudspeaker systems. Both models are a result of the close collaboration between the R&D departments of NEXO and its parent company Yamaha.
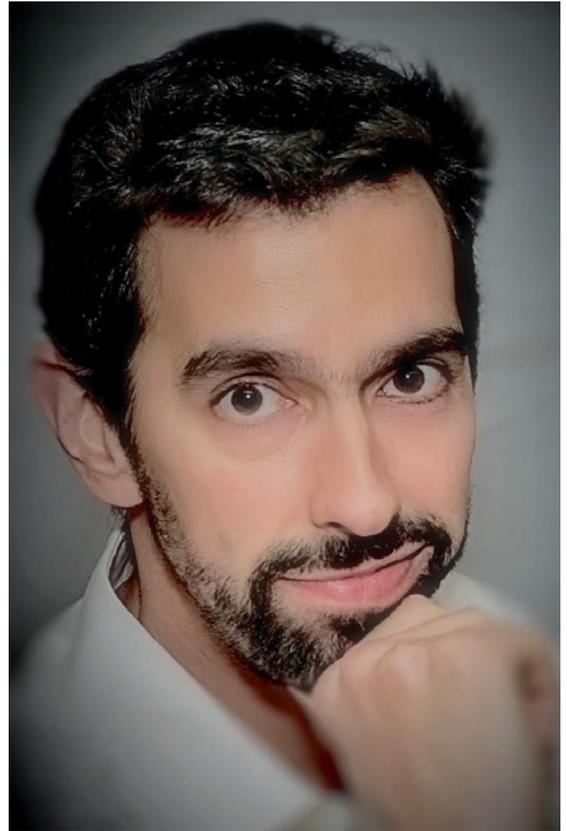
Ideal for use in the fixed installation and touring sectors alike, these powered controllers are easy to set up and quick to deploy. They feature a universal power supply (100 - 240V) using PFC (Power Factor Correction) technology for maximum efficiency and smooth current draw. The MK II's essential parameters are readily accessible via a large colour touch-screen on the front panel, which provide a comprehensive range of control, and

networking facilities on the rear panel. Most importantly, the NXAMP MK II models achieve a whole new level of sound quality, partnering with NEXO loudspeakers to deliver a superior audience experience.

TPi spoke to R&D Director, Joseph Carcopino, about the initial brief for this latest offering for the live events industry: "The first generation of NXAMP was introduced over 10 years ago. Although still capable of competing with the best professional amplifiers on the market in terms of power and processing, we needed an update in terms of power supply, power amplifier, remote control and user interface."

He continued: "Creating a new generation of a very successful products is always a challenge, but our passionate team, forged out of engineers from 2 companies, accepted this challenge, merging their know-how,

Opposite and below: NEXO's latest NXAMP MK II; NEXO's R&D Director, Joseph Carcopino.

and technical sensitivity to deliver the NXAMP MK II. When coupled with our acclaimed NeMo software, these amplifiers represent one of the top powering and processing solutions worldwide."

One of the main focus areas for the R&D team was sound quality and ease of use. In line with this, the engineers developed a large LCD colour touch-screen on the front panel of the system, enabling fast and simple navigation for essential parameters. These include; array EQ, mute and metres, EQ detail, user EQ, inputs, load monitoring, log, scene, setup, system headroom, volume, gain and delays.

He continued: "In my opinion, the user interface is one of the most efficient and easy to use on the market.

"One of the strengths of the first generation NXAMP was that all parameters could be set up from the front panel interface. We kept this idea during the development of MK II because we have a diverse range of users. It's not only big companies using remote control with large quantities of amps, it's also small installations and tours that use the front panel, especially through the touch screen - it's more convenient than having to deploy a computer or tablet."

He added: "We also maintained some of the last generation's components to allow users to jump from the 48 KHz, 24-bit resolution to a top level 96 KHz, 32-bit processing."

On the amplifier, a native dual Ethernet port offers seamless integration with NEXO's proprietary NeMo system management software. Amplifiers can be remote-controlled

"A new generation of product is always a challenge, especially when the original has been successful! But our team of passionate engineers accepted this challenge, merging their knowhow, culture, sensitivity, and finally delivering this NXAMP MK II that, when coupled with our acclaimed NeMo software, offers one of the top powering and processing solution worldwide."

R&D Director, Joseph Carcopino

and daisy-chained via a remote control card fitted as standard, with optional Dante, EtherSound and AES / EBU network cards also available. Four high-end analogue inputs use cascaded converters for low output noise. Four digital inputs are also available through the rear panel expansion card slot offering optional AES / EBU, EtherSound, Dante or AES67 inputs, all with automatic analogue fall- back.

In addition to the expansion card slot, other rear panel connectivity includes RS232 serial and GPIO ports along with Speakon outputs for each of the 4 channels. With the product now shipping, Carcopino predicted that both existing and new customers for the NEXO brand will be pleased with this latest creation. "I think our long-standing clients are going to enjoy the improvement in the sound quality and the ease of setup, while new customers will love the 'one phase for all' approach of NEXO, meaning that no special setup is needed to match any NEXO speaker except the delay, in order to compensate for the physical distance between boxes."

The R&D Director concluded by commenting on the initial feedback received from the launch at BPM|PRO: "The look of both the hardware and the user interface have been complimented a lot by those who have seen the MK II. We have also received praise for its the sound quality with many end users commenting on the systems' more 'transparent' sound compared to the previous product generation."

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