Where's the Whiz? Where's the Bang?

By Richard Cadena

I recently was at PLASA 2009 at Earl's Court in London looking for the next big thing. If you asked me, I would have to say that I saw a lot of new and exciting technology, but there was definitely a lack of what I would call "whiz bang" technology. That being said, there were still some interesting new products that caught my eye.

One of the most unique LED products is the Coemar Infinity Spot, Wash and Ultra Violet fixtures. These fixtures are powered by the new Philips CDM300 Osram lamps and have an integrated touch screen interface to the Pearl Expert. The console, which is more than an entry-level console, allows for 255 scenes and 255 macro groups, and can be used to control up to 16 fixtures simultaneously.

Another interesting new product is the Vari-Lite VLX, a 630-watt LED color wash fixture with a self-contained DMX512 output. The console allows for endless possibilities in terms of color temperature and color mixing, with a range of 2,000 to 10,000K. The console also includes a built-in RDM capability, which allows for remote control of the fixture from a computer or other device.

On the control side, MA Lighting was on hand to demonstrate the RDM capabilities of the new Jester software. The software includes a pixel map interface, which allows for easy control of the fixture's output. The software also includes a touch screen interface, which can be used to control up to 16 fixtures simultaneously.

Overall, there were many interesting new products at PLASA this year, but it seems as if RDM is finally becoming a reality. It will be interesting to see how these new products will be used in the future.
Apollo Design Technology displaying their range of products. The Philips stand included displays of their new FastFit lamps in addition to displays from Color Kinetics, Vari-Lite and Strand.

Swisson showed, among other products, their new XSD-D Series Satelite Sine Wave Dimmer.

The always-busy Robe stand carried a large number of new products. On the DTS stand was the new XR300 Beam with continuous rotation on pan and tilt.

The Elation stand at the entrance to Earls Court 1.

The Studio Due stand was glowing with LED light. The JB Lighting stand with the JBLED A7 Zoom, which is distributed in the U.S. by Creative Stage Lighting.

Robert Juliet followspots, including the Cyrano (L) and Lancelot in the White Light zone.

Pulsar occupying their usual location at the front of the exhibition hall. Brothers Arturo (L) and Guillermo Cabada of Mega-Lite with a customer.

Prolyte at PLASA.
MA Lighting officially launched the grandMA2. Although they showed it at PLASA last year, this year they are shipping it.

SGM on the RCF stand. The lighting company was recently purchased by the audio company.

The RDM Pavilion with a variety of RDM-enabled products.

Brothers Clive and Graham Forrester on the All Access Staging & Productions stand. All Access opened in London last year.

Chauvet's UK distributor and their stand at PLASA.

The Rosco Stand.

Strong Lighting exhibited in the shadow of the ESTA stand.

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