Smart-e

Case Study

Project	Residential
Client	Jason Plato
Product	SNX-8x8+
Location	Oxfordshire

UK racing driver's AV system features Smart-e's SNX-8x8+ distribution matrix

When home automation company, Interactive Homes Ltd. installed a top-of-the-range automated AV system for British racing legend Jason Plato's 5-bed family home, they chose Smart-e equipment to meet the demanding brief.

A well-known figure in British motor sport, Jason has actively competed for the last 25 years, is Autosport National Driver of Year (2007) and won the British Racing Drivers Club Silver Star for a record third time in 2007. Jason is also a presenter on TV programme, Fifth Gear. In January 2007 Jason commissioned Interactive Homes to design and install a fully integrated entertainment system in his family home located on the outskirts of Oxford, England.

Jason purchased the 16th Century barn in 2006, a year after it had been converted into a home. The building already featured a computer network cabling system, however as Justin Wells, Director at Interactive Homes says

"*The existing system had not been thought through properly and the wiring was shoddily installed - we discovered CAT5 cabling wrapped around power cables!*"

The badly designed and installed system needed removing and replacing with a system that could meet Jason's remit whilst not detracting from the charm of the barn.

Complicated retrofit in converted barn

The fact that the barn had previously been converted, meant that the new system had to be retro-fitted. Vaulted ceilings, an open plan layout, stone walls and solid oak and concrete flooring with under floor heating, made this a challenging project. As Justin said

"*It was often difficult to find the best route for the cable, we did consider a wireless system, however the specification required a high-end infrastructure with a lot of services going into the barn, and we knew the system was going to be used to the max, so we advised against using a complete wireless solution.*"

The Smart-e SNX-8x8+ was chosen for the project. Located in the hub of the house, the SNX-8x8+ delivers High Definition (HD) video to eight display screens around the property. All the sources are routed into the Smart-e SNX-8x8+ which are then scaled up to 1080p before they are switched through to the various rooms - so there is 1080p pumping through the Smart-e switch all the time, to all locations.

Uniquely the Smart-e switch allows for an RS232 routing facility that enables the AMX control system to transmit and receive RS232 control signals to the eight screens. As Jason points out "*To achieve this without the Smart-e matrix would have increased costs, as additional AMX processors would have been required.*"

The Smart-e SNX-8x8+ was chosen by Interactive Homes because of its compact nature, the RS232 feature, and its ability to deliver very high quality component video over CAT 5 structured cabling.

The new integrated system features eight of the latest top-of-the-range Pioneer Kuro display screens in 42", 50" and 60". The living room doubles as a cinema room where a drop-down projector and screen are set into the ceiling. Stand-alone, ceiling and wall speakers by KEF are fitted throughout the property, whilst a Lutron homeworks system operates the barn's lighting system. A high quality video and computer network system is also routed to an office above a three-garage outbuilding. The entire integrated system is controlled by AMX touchscreens and processors.

A typical application for the SNX-8x8+

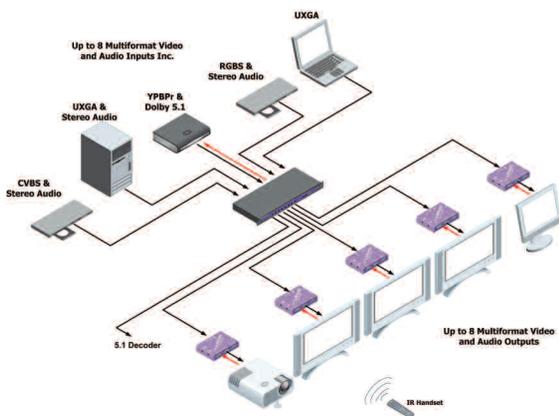**The Smart-e SNX-8x8+ distribution matrix used in Jason Plato's home**

Smart-e equipment used:

SNX-8x8+

The Smart-e SNX-8x8+ is a compact matrix providing very high quality video and audio switching, with resolution up to 1600 x 1200. It is HDTV compatible (720p, 1080i, 1080p) features IR and RS232/422 control, PC Windows software control and distributes signals up to 300m. The SNX-8x8+ provides a unique 'one cable solution' as it distributes via inexpensive and easy-to-install CAT 5 (and above) structured cabling.

SLX-RX111

Known as the 'Swiss Army Knife' of extenders, the SLX-RX111 combines the ease of 'plug and play' with discrete industry standard connectors transmitting video signals up to 100m from source devices. The unit supports UXGA, HD, YPrPb 100m, and RGBS, YC, CVBS 300m, and Stereo Audio providing inline power and RS232 control.

Interactive Homes Limited is a home automation company with proven experience in designing and installing bespoke solutions for residential properties. The company works closely with clients to provide solutions that meet their lifestyle ambitions and budget restraints. Services cover:-
- Home cinema and distributed audio systems
- Lighting contol systems
- Home automation control
- Home networking and communications
- Electronic blinds and curtains
- Bespoke fittings and finishes

For more information visit their website at www.interactivehomes.co.uk, or ring +44 (0)1635 49111.