

conference room for example features a small rack of equipment from Extron, Symetrix and Denon, as well as projection from Christie, conferencing mics from Sennheiser and a K-Array KR-200 sound system. 'It's just a small system, we used K-Array and it's fantastic - it sounds perfect,' says Mr Arzouni. 'All the media rooms were done with K-Array speakers and Sennheiser microphones.'

This is one room in a small portion of the project, yet no expense has been spared to ensure the best possible result. And this is typical of the whole project. Up at the top of the main stand, the VIP rooms covered by discrete ceiling speakers are another example of the quality that has gone into the whole installation.

While the A/V setup in the smaller sections of the stadium are worthy of note, it is the main arena PA which demands the most attention. 'The system was requested by the client,' recalls Mr Arzouni. 'The client knew about Meyer Sound as a "Grade-A" international manufacturer, plus the project managers and engineers had already heard about the brand. They asked us if it would be possible to give them a complete solution by Meyer Sound.'

The system consists of 74 of the manufacturer's LPO-1P speakers distributed around the top of the stadium's roofline in pairs or threes and processed using Galileo units. The system is monitored by the manufacturer's RMS: Remote Monitoring System.

'The client didn't want a normal PA system, they needed a system that could be used with any live show,' explains Mr Arzouni. 'It is a distributed system with 74 speakers - for 15,000 seats you can play rock'n' roll music through it,' he smiles. 'We used a Midas Pro2 for mixing in the control room and we also

sign for AV Tech winning more deals in the build up to 2022. They took the opinion of the Qatar Olympic Committee on Meyer Sound who said they had never had any problems using them for over 10 years,' he states. 'We worked very hard at the beginning to convince them to go with Meyer Sound. Then it was our challenge to make it a proper installation,' says the GM. 'We have done the right installation, if they use the same standard quality everywhere for the World Cup stadia, it will be good for us.'

'The client attended the testing,



Equipment from Sennheiser, Clear-Com, Tascam, Midas, QSC and Meyer Sound in the rack



Sennheiser gooseneck mics in use in the press room

have Wi-Fi intercom facilities from Clear-Com for use by operators during events. We have lots of Sennheiser microphones, as the stadium will be used sometimes for live bands and musicians. They want to use the system if there is a small event.' Other equipment put to use in the project includes Tascam CD and cassette players, as well as units from D-Link, 360 System and Proel.

The decision to install Meyer Sound came relatively late in the process. The system was approved after the building had already been constructed. We came in after everything had been finished,' says Mr Arzouni. 'We had to work very carefully with supporting and hanging the cabinets together with the consultant. To mount the system at this stage of the project, it was a big challenge for us to finish on time,' he recalls.

Despite this late decision to go with the US brand, Mr Arzouni is confident it is a positive

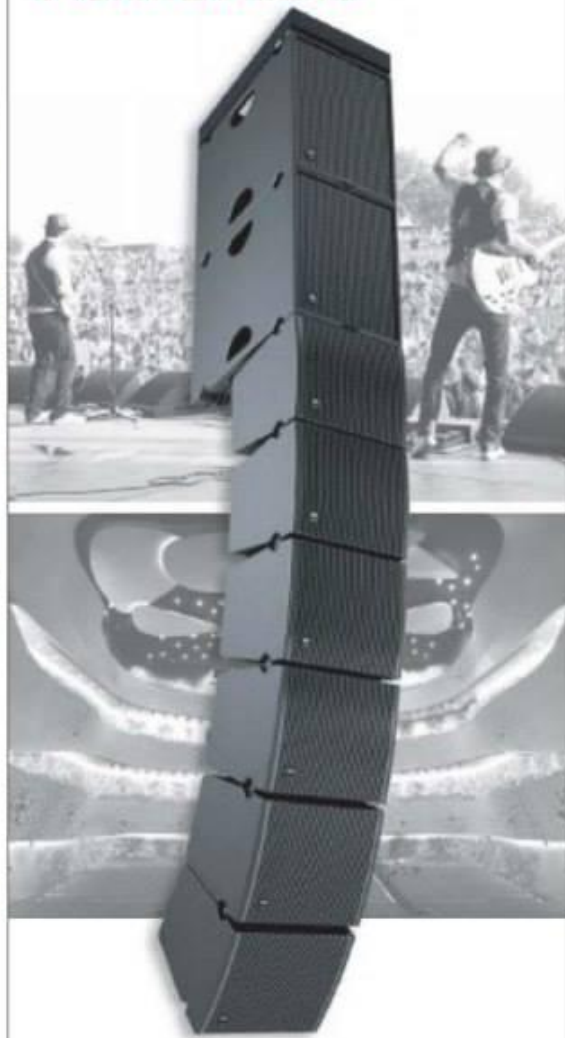
commissioning and hand over, and he was very surprised and impressed from the quality and the clarity of the sound system,' continues Mr Arzouni. 'The main contractor described it as "the best sound I've heard in such an installation", and I believe it will be a good reference for future projects.'

There will be many more opportunities for all the systems integrators and manufacturers to highlight their capabilities as the country prepares for 2022. The extended build up to the World Cup has created a situation where every company is looking to put itself in the best position to win some prestigious deals. With its work at Lekhwiya SC, AV Tech has put down the first serious marker in the battle to win the stadium deals. With the decisions on these yet to be made, it is time to see how the other companies react.

www.avlock.com.qa

THE NEW SEQUENZA 5

FORM FOLLOWS FUNCTION



SEQUENZA 5 W with 4 x 5" and 3 x 1" Waveformer (100°x15°) generates with only a few elements the required length for the line array function by its enclosure dimensions. Due to the innovative rigging system 'Snap&Fly+' and 'SafeLock', SEQUENZA 5 W and the flown bass **SEQUENZA 5 B** (1 x 12") are ready for use in a very short time. Top performance and efficiency in one system: **Performance that you can hear!**



Kling & Freitag GmbH - Phone + 49 (0)511-96 99 70
info@kling-freitag.de · www.kling-freitag.de

FEATURES: INSTALLATION



The main PA at Lekhwiya SC is from Meyer Sound

Setting the benchmark

A stadium in Doha is currently the ultimate reference project for companies looking to win deals for Qatar 2022. AV Tech has set an early marker with its work at Lekhwiya SC, as **James Ling** discovers

IN DOHA THERE IS ONE THING that is dominating the thoughts of all businesses – 2022. Unless you have been on Mars for the last few years, you will know that this is when the FIFA World Cup will head to the Middle East for the first time, and Qatar has the honour of hosting the competition.

Even though there are still nine years and two tournaments to go before a ball is kicked, the battle has already begun to try and win the all important contracts to be a part of this global celebration. As such, there are now considerably more systems integrators with local offices in Doha and competition is fierce to win any kind of deal that could be used as a reference.

Everything from the smallest sports hall install in Qatar to new stadia right across the region are currently being cited as potential references, and everyone feels they have the upper hand in securing a deal. With nine new stadia to be built in the country as well as the associated infrastructure, it is easy to see why there is such a clamour to prove what your company can do. So the construction of a new football stadium in Doha can be seen as the ultimate benchmark for those looking to get involved.

The Abdullah bin Khalifa Stadium, home of Lekhwiya Sports Club in the ISF area of Doha, has provided the first opportunity for



(Clockwise) The main press room covered by K-Array; Meyer Sound UPQ 1P speakers at the stadium; Speakers fitted around the lip of the stadium roof; The AV Tech team

audio manufacturers and systems integrators to do just this. This intimate 15,000 seat stadium will act as a training ground during the World Cup, but in reality it is much more important than that. The newly-built stadium will be used as a proof of concept for the planned air conditioning systems designed to keep fans and players cool during the competition. It is also providing

the opportunity for everyone involved to demonstrate their equipment and skills in a real-world setting and prove it can cope with the conditions presented by Qatar in the summer.

The project at Lekhwiya SC saw AV Tech handle the sound system

installation. 'We have done all the audiovisual systems for the stadium,' smiles Hadi Arzouni, general manager at AV Tech. 'It has been a big and important job for us.'

'The stadium was built over the course of a year, transforming an empty patch of desert into a gleaming new arena. The idea to finish the stadium in 365 days was a big challenge. It was a very fast job. The contractor, Al Khayat Contracting, worked very fast,' says Mr Arzouni. 'It was the first time they had done a sports venue, they are experts in palace building so we helped them as much as we could.'

'We have executed 14 stadia in Doha – we've done broadcast, LED display and scoreboards, media and everything related to live sound,' continues AV Tech's general manager. 'From our experience, we supported the contractor, giving them the information they wanted during the construction like the acoustic panels, how you want to split the acoustics between the commentators and all media services. We gave all our knowhow and information, and we supported them.'

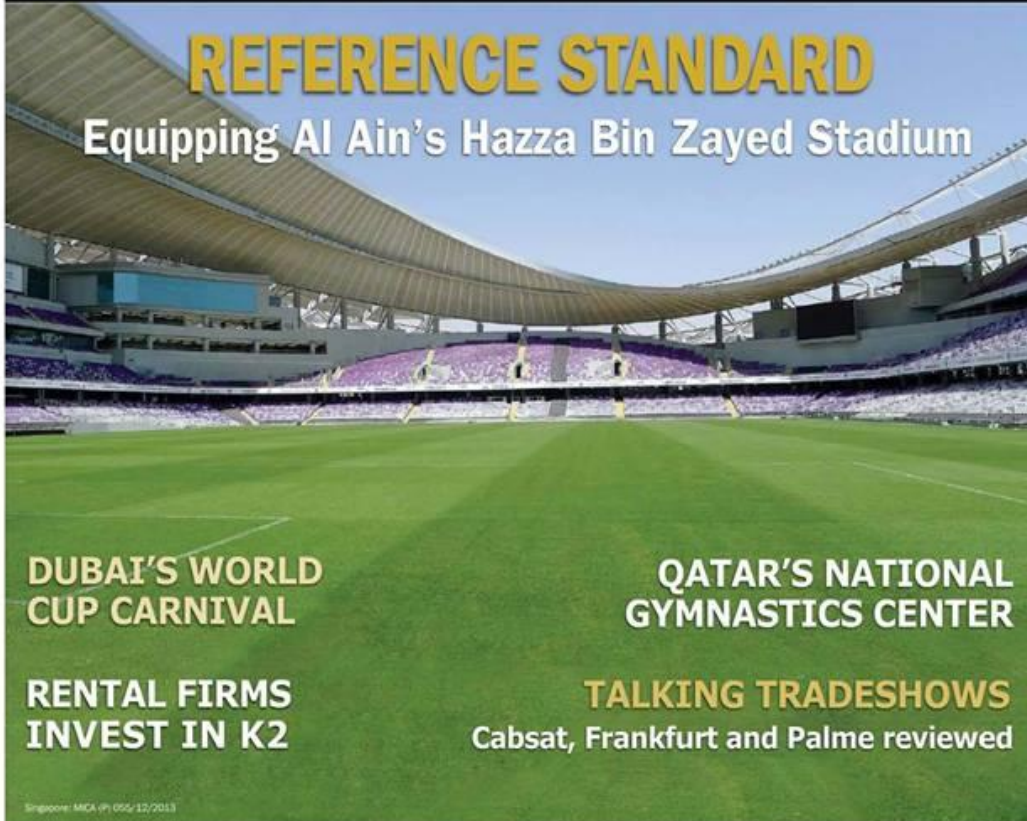
'The scope of the installation work included everything from the press conference and meeting rooms to the VIP boxes and of course the main stadium system itself. From walking around the site the attention to detail that has gone into each area is clear. The main press

ProAudioEast^{Middle}

LIVE SOUND | RECORDING | INSTALLATION | A/V | BROADCAST | POSTPRODUCTION | May-June 2014

REFERENCE STANDARD

Equipping Al Ain's Hazza Bin Zayed Stadium



DUBAI'S WORLD
CUP CARNIVAL

QATAR'S NATIONAL
GYMNASTICS CENTER

RENTAL FIRMS
INVEST IN K2

TALKING TRADESHOWS
Cabsat, Frankfurt and Palme reviewed

Singapore: MCA (P) 056/12/2013

TeamConnect:
Stress-free
meetings.

www.sennheiser.ae

SENNHEISER
The Pursuit of Perfect Sound

FEATURES: INSTALLATION



Community and Sennheiser equipment in use at the gym



Qatar's National Gymnastics Center



Control is courtesy of Allen & Heath

Repeat business

AV Tech has shown that size isn't everything with its latest project at Qatar's National Gymnastics Center. The install itself came as a direct result of the SI's previous work, as **James Ling** discovers

THE ULTIMATE COMPLIMENT THAT can be paid to any systems integrator is when a customer returns, asking for the same solution to be installed at a different site. This highlights not only the quality of the original job, but also the trust that the client is willing to place in the installer. It is even better when the client is as high profile and influential as the Qatar Olympic Committee (QOC), and the repeat business that is being generated is within the country's bustling sports facility scene.

One of the latest sporting venues to undergo a refit is the country's National Gymnastics Center. While this is not the largest of sites, it falls under the remit of the QOC and as a result provided an opportunity for installers to impress the organisation.

For AV Tech, the project began at an entirely different venue. In 2013, the integrator completed a small installation at the Al Arabi Sports Club. The solution called on equipment from a variety of manufacturers, including speakers from Community Professional and RCF with power courtesy of QSC amplifiers, mics from Sennheiser, playback equipment from TASCAM and control courtesy of Allen & Heath. This was only a small project, but the QOC was clearly impressed with the results. And when the National Gymnastics Center was in

need of an upgrade, it turned again to AV Tech.

'The gymnasium was going through a renovation, as part of this, the old audio system needed to be replaced,' reveals AV Tech's Mahmoud El Zein. 'We believed this equipment would sound right and meet the budget as well.'

The new system was installed during a two week project which did not provide any significant challenges. The core of the solution is formed by 12 Community Professional DP6 pendant mount 6.5-inch full-range speakers with six of the manufacturer's DSSUB surface mount subwoofers. Further loudspeakers come in the form of two RCF PL 60 6-inch twin-cone flush mount ceiling speakers and four of the manufacturer's WS 620XT 6-inch coax flush mount speakers with line transfer.

'The powerful Community pendant speakers perfectly covered the entire gym floor and look elegant,' says Mr El Zein. 'The Community subwoofers added extra definition to the low end, something which any modern gym requires.'

Power for the system is courtesy of QSC Audio amplifiers. AV Tech installed four in total at the gymnasium, two ISA300Ti units and a further pair of GQCs. Sources for the new system are

from Sennheiser and TASCAM. A pair of TASCAM units have been called into action for playback. A CD-200SB CD player and memory storage combination model with XLR balanced output forms half of the solution, while a CD-200i which has all of the CD-200's features plus an additional iPod dock completes this portion. 'The TASCAM professional CD players with iPod dock and USB playback ensured that there would be enough sources to be played,' explains Mr El Zein.

The second half of the gymnasium's input solutions is a mic package from Sennheiser. This consists of a pair of the manufacturer's EW 152 G3 wireless headset microphones, and two Sennheiser EW 135 G3 handheld units. To cover the gymnasium, two A 1035 U passive omnidirectional antennas have been installed, alongside a pair of ASA 1 active antenna splitters.

Control for the whole system comes via equipment from Allen & Heath. The heart of the system is an ICRS 8+2 in/8+2 out digital mix processor with Euroblock connectors. Additional control comes from a pair of eight-fader PL-6 remote controllers which Mr El Zein describes as 'very user friendly'.

With the solution installed, Hadi Arzouni, general manager of AV Tech, is clearly happy with the end result. 'The new system sounds great. It was a very nice installation. The A&H IDR programming was very easy and IDR remotes are very user friendly. The Community pendant speakers are very good looking and great sounding.'



Community pendant speakers cover the main hall

One of the major factors highlighted by this project is that installations don't always need to be on the grandest scale to catch the attention. AV Tech's first project at Al Arabi Sports Club may have passed many by as just another small install, but it captured the imagination of those that mattered and consequently won the company more business.

It also shows that high-quality equipment doesn't always have to break the bank. Despite a tight budget for the project, AV Tech was able to install a high-quality solution with premium components that would meet the needs of the venue. With the reaction this install has received, it wouldn't be surprising to hear of the QOC turning to AV Tech with more projects in the future.

www.avtech.com.qa



TASCAM, Sennheiser and QSC equipment in the rack