

# Downstream Distribution

**A**t 81,000 square feet, the new Three Rivers Convention Center provides the Kennewick, WA tri-city area with a big drawing card to a part of the state that's long been overshadowed as a site for conventions, meetings and other events.

Situated not far from Portland and Seattle

on the Columbia River, the area has long had to contend with the drawing power of those two tourist meccas. It was important that Three Rivers offer a facility technologically up to speed and able to accommodate users' varied communications and presentation needs and expectations.

High on that list of demands for technology infrastructure is efficient management of distributed audio.

To help accomplish that feat, Michael R. Yantis Associates, the Seattle company that designed the center's sound system, made Symetrix's SymNet the hub for distributing audio throughout



▲ Symetrix's SymNet takes control at Three Rivers Convention Center in Kennewick, WA.

the facility. "The overall challenge was to distribute quality sound throughout the convention center that is zoned and user-configurable both at the system's central computer as well as at individual control stations located in each event room. The goal was to enable user linking of selected zones (room sound systems) to operate as one, and to enable other zones to operate separately and autonomously from the others as required for each event," said Steve Goegebuer, senior AV systems consultant with Yantis.

Considering the layout of the center, that was no small task for either Yantis or Evco Sound and Electronics, the Spokane, WA-based company that installed the system. The convention center is separated into three main areas—a main ballroom hall flanked by two large meeting room areas. All three of the rooms are designed to be subdivided into four smaller areas and combined in a variety of different configurations.

"SymNet does a great job of handling that kind of traffic and all in the digital realm," Goegebuer said.

At the SymNet solution's heart are audio processing and control devices housed in the control room that allow the formation of three "rings" permitting interconnection and control. A total of 12 8x8 DSP units; four 8In DSP units; and eight BreakIn 12 units allow the main ballroom, the east cluster of meeting rooms and the west cluster of meeting rooms to each function as a separate SymNet ring.

"Each ring handles its own audio signal processing as well as control of all inputs and outputs, which are all tied together with a CobraLink interface," Goegebuer said.

Room-level control of audio functions is provided by SymNet ARC (Adaptive Remote Control) units. Each area capable of being partitioned as a separate space is equipped with one secure, wall-mounted ARC control station. The programmable ARCs provide a broad range of remote control functions, including audio source selection, zone volume control and room combination control.

One of the Yantis audio system design team's major challenges was integration of a complex paging system into the facility's audio network. In addition to facility telephone paging access, four dedicated push-button paging consoles—one each for the administration, show office, security and AV department—were routed through SymNet. Setting up the system to allow for pages to be directed to specific areas of the facility, as well as across the entire building, was a key need.

► **Evco Sound and Electronics**

[www.evcosound.com](http://www.evcosound.com)

► **Symetrix**

[www.symetrixaudio.com](http://www.symetrixaudio.com)

► **Michael R. Yantis Associates**

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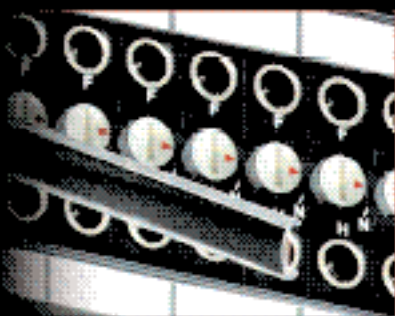
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