

Omnia.7 Is Belle of Ball in Bellefontaine

Processor pumps up WPKO's signal and adds RDS possibilities too

USERREPORT

BY WILLIAM BOWIN, CSRE, CBNT
AND SHERRIE BOWIN, CRO, CBNT
Bowin Engineering Services

BELLEFONTAINE, OHIO — Home to Olympic snowboarder Louie Vito, this town is a small bedroom community in northwest central Ohio. Many of its residents commute to nearby Columbus and Dayton, so they're familiar with large-market radio. With that in mind, the sound of one of our client stations, WPKO(FM), was starting to become a bit dated so we knew it was time for a new audio processor.

Having used the Omnia.9 at some of my other clients in larger markets, we were excited to try its little brother, the Omnia.7 FM, in Bellefontaine. It did not disappoint.

Installation was quick and painless,



Sherrie and William Bowin with an Omnia.7 FM.

although we did actually have to consult the manual to locate the password. While the front panel is easy to

navigate, it's much more convenient to use the remote software, NfRemote, to tweak the settings. In fact, through VNC it's possible for the operations manager to adjust the sound of the station from the comfort of his living room or even from his car.

WPKO plays a variety of music from the '60s right through to today. It dedicates whole segments to older music, such as the "Lunchbox Oldies" hour while evenings are reserved for requests and dedications, usually from the younger folks.

As with most small-market stations, Friday and Saturday evenings are time for high school sports. WPKO's Omnia.7 FM handles this variety of program-

ming with ease. The "Undo" feature restores a bit of life to today's overly processed music, and the rest of the processing algorithms don't bring up the noise often found in older recordings. Even the sports broadcasts sound a bit better.

One of the disturbing results of the installation of the Omnia.7 FM was the discovery of some of the flaws in the WPKO airchain. The .7 FM is so much cleaner and brighter than the previous processor (it has response out to 16.5 kHz) that WPKO is in the process digitally reloading some of the material into its automation system that was recorded years ago at a lower sample rate. Additionally, the .7 FM provides such a nice bass punch that we found some of the electrolytic capacitors in the console were a bit tired and not up to the task.

We purchased the .7 FM through a major broadcast supplier who offered a free RDS upgrade so for the first time, the station has RDS capabilities. Right now it's simply displaying a static RDS slogan, but the .7 FM can accept dynamic information and they're planning to add that at a later date.

It is also "futureproofed." With plans in the works to upgrade to HD, all that is needed is to purchase the HD1 feature and install the unlock key.

The Omnia.7 FM can handle the analog diversity delay should it be decided not to implement it in the exporter.

Would we recommend the purchase of another Omnia.7 FM? Absolutely. In fact, when an FM translator is added to the AM, we definitely see another .7 FM in WPKO's future.

For information, contact Brian Kerkan at Omnia Audio in Ohio at (216) 241-7225 or visit www.telosalliance.com.

eBooks: Tools for Strategic Technology Decision-Making



Radio World's growing library of eBooks can assist you in maximizing your investment in an array of platforms and tools: licensed transmission, online streaming, mobile apps, multicasting, translators, podcasts, RDS, metadata and much more. The eBooks are a huge hit with readers. They help engineers, GMs, operations managers and other top radio executives — radio's new breed of digital, cross-platform decision-makers — understand this new world and thrive in it.

Visit radioworld.com/ebooks

TECHUPDATE

D&M'S VIBE FM OFFERS OPTIONS

D&M Broadcast's three- or six-band Vibe FM is fed by a wideband AGC, while DSP manages the audio processing and RDS/MPX encoding. It can operate in analog or AES/EBU modes.



The Vibe FM can be updated via software updates.

In addition, an optional Ethernet streaming card lets users play MP3/AAC+ streams and files. It forms a complete stream to the MPX+RDS receiver for use as a spare audio source or STL network. In this configuration, the audio signal coming from the network is processed by the DSP and converted to analog through the MPX output, thus creating an entirely digital processing chain.

For information, contact D&M Broadcast in Italy 011-39-051-0312903 or visit www.dmbroadcast.it.

TECHUPDATES

EVENTIDE FLAGSHIP BD600W NOW SHIPPING WITH WHEATNET

Eventide points to its history as developing the modern profanity delay in the 1970s, replacing costly analog tape-based solutions with a seven-second rack-mounted digital delay.

Its flagship delay is now available in three configurations: BD600, BD600E and BD600W.



The newest, the BD600W, includes the extended remote control functionality of the BD600E as well as integration of audio and control over IP with Wheatstone's WheatNet broadcast network.

Each BD600 offers 80 seconds of profanity protection, as well as up to 10 seconds of MicroPrecision delay, adjustable in real time in subsample increments, free of audible artifacts — suitable for synching HD Radio signals, multiple transmission towers or audio with processed video.

The BD600E offers extended remote capability for integration with automation systems.

For information, contact Eventide in New Jersey at (201) 641-1200 or visit www.eventideaudio.com.

ORBAN INTRODUCES NEW FLAGSHIP PROCESSOR

Orban is introducing a flagship processor for the Optimod product line, the Orban Optimod-FM 8700.



The 8700 features Ravenna audio over IP connectivity (AES67-compliant), and two hot-swappable dual redundant power supplies with automatic fallover.

Digital MPX connection is now standard in the 8700 with 192 kHz AES3 digital MPX output.

New dual-digitized SCA inputs, and a new Orban propriety-designed program adaptive subharmonic synthesizer to ensure ultra-low punchy bass, are featured. Orban says its Multipath Mitigator minimizes stereo subchannel energy without compromising stereo separation.

For information, contact Orban in Arizona at (480) 403-8300 or visit www.orban.com.

DEVA DEBUTS NEW PROCESSOR

DEVA Broadcast's new DB6400 is a four-band processor with ultralow latency, the company says.

The processing section includes dual stage wideband AGC with "intelligent gating," a multiband adjustable range equalizer, multiband peak limiter and advanced distortion-controlled final stage. There are onboard factory presets and user-customizable presets. The sample rate can be controlled externally by SNTP for automatic synchronization. The DSP-based stereo encoder guarantees precision of the MPX signal with peak control and two independently-configurable composite MPX outputs. A built-in RDS/RBDS encoder is part of the package.

Other features include a built-in IP audio player which supports MP3 and PCM



audio formats in the event of signal loss. Upon silence detection an email notification is immediately sent. Silence parameters are customizable.

The DB6400 can be operated via the front panel or remotely via TCP/IP and by using its Web interface through iOS, Android or any other mobile device or a PC. There are security settings to keep unauthorized personnel from changing settings. Connections include AES/EBU, S/PDIF and optical digital audio inputs along with a USB interface for local connectivity.

For information, contact DEVA Broadcast in Florida at (305) 767-1207 or visit www.devabroadcast.com.

PRODUCTS & SERVICES SHOWCASE

Coaxial Dynamics A CDI INDUSTRIES, INC. COMPANY
Specialists in RF Test Equipment & Components

- Digital Broadcast
- Directional Wattmeters
- Line Sections
- Plug-In Elements
- Loads and Attenuators
- Signal Samplers
- Meters
- Accessories
- Low Pass Filters
- Power Sensors
- Custom OEM

Coaxial Dynamics (a CDI Industries, Inc. Company)
6800 Lake Abram Drive • Middleburg Hts, OH 44130
Phone: 440-243-1100 Toll Free: 800-COAXIAL Fax: 440-243-1101
sales@coaxial.com • www.coaxial.com

NOT out of the blue
Bext's loyal customer base did not come out of the blue. It's a 30-year track record of high quality RF broadcast equipment, experience & 24/7 customer service. Call Bext today to find out what Bext can do for you.

BEXT
888 239 8462
www.bext.com