

**GERMANY'S
THRIVING MEDIA
INDUSTRY
HAS MEANT BIG
BUSINESS FOR ONE
SPECIALIST
PRODUCTION
COMPANY. HERE
WE DISCOVER HOW
STRAND LIGHTING,
THROUGH ITS
LOCAL OFFICE,
PROVIDED...**



■ *The Gemini 2 control desk and an impressive battery of luminaires in the Dr. Straube studio.*

LIGHTING AT THE FLICK OF A SWITCH

A PALS automated lighting system has just been installed in the new studios of the Dr. Straube media group in Erlangen — the second time that Strand Lighting GmbH has supplied a fully computer-controlled system to a film and television studio in Germany.

The Dr. Straube media group has been equipped with professional-level studio technology since 1983. 'House' specialities are video, film and TV productions.

A regular production feature is the 90-minute further education video magazine, *Puls* (circulation 15,000). A subsidiary company, IMPULS TV Filmund Fernsehproduktionsgesellschaft GmbH produces industrial and advertising films, plus documentaries, to order.

The client list is impressive, including companies such as Siemens and Daimler Benz, and government bodies such as the Federal Press Office, and radio and TV stations including Bayrischer Rundfunk and Westdeutscher Rundfunk.

So successful had the company become that the old studio was virtually bursting at the seams. A second

studio of 200m² was added, designed as a universal production and broadcasting facility for up to four cameras, plus the latest TV, video and audio technology.

The new studio is of two storeys, with a ceiling height of 6.8 metres. An extendable stand provides seating for up to 100 people. Lighting is placed in such a way that at any given point throughout the studio there are sufficient Fresnel spots and soft spots available. Vertical positioning is via motor-operated hoists distributed at regular intervals throughout the studio. These support not only the cyclorama lights but also the entire set lighting.

This hanging system is especially suited to the studio, since when not in operation, its overall depth does not exceed that of the recessed ceiling beams. This means that the studio height is always fully used to best advantage. Nevertheless, the lighting rig can be lowered to as little as 150 centimetres above the studio floor.

Hoists for the set lighting support a Polaris Fresnel spot, with a 1kW lamp, a Castor Fresnel spot with a 2kW lamp and an Arturo soft spot with 2 × 1250W input.

All spotlights are motor-operated for angle and rotation. In addition, the Fresnel spots have motor-operated focussing. The special feature of the equipment is that all parameters set for each individual spotlight can be stored in the computer and reproduced as often as required.

The positive effect on studio operation was noted soon after installation. For regular monthly film productions, IMPULS TV now needs a considerably shorter period to make basic lighting settings.

All positioning data for spotlights is stored, available for recall. Only the positioning of barn doors, light diffusion media and coloured lighting effects have to be set by hand.

PALS — Precision Automated Lights, gives the studio additional versatility when it comes to slotting one-off programmes into a long-running series, for example. A series with unchanging sets can simply have lighting cues recalled from memory when necessary.

One idea being explored by the studio is for producing game shows for private TV stations, and also a monthly information programme covering the technical and scientific fields.