Features and benefits of the new 500 series consoles

Strand Lighting launches redesigned versions of their highly successful, market-leading 500 series desks, accompanied by the new release (version 2.3) of their GeniusPro/Lightpalette operating software.

Capacity

The new 500 series desks, with their Pentium II processors, are the most advanced control systems we have developed to date and possibly the most impressive and powerful desks in the market.

- Up to 6000 channels - i.e. twice the capacity of our nearest competitor
- 18,432 DMX Outputs
- 2000 cues
- 1000 groups
- 2000 macros
- 750 preset focus
- 200 simultaneous fades
- 99 fixture libraries
- 600/99 effects
- 30 effects faders
- 2 playbacks
- Up to 54 submasters (550i desks)
- 3000 SMPTE events
- up to 4 video displays
- 12 discrete remote video
- 16 bit encoders and tracker ball
- Integral floppy drive and large hard drive
- up to 5 consoles networked together
- Network HHR
- Remote video node
- Remote DMX nodes with support for handheld remotes
- Network printing
- File server

Motion control

- High-resolution trackball (16 bits) and simple to user rotary encoders provide fully integrated motion control.
- Using familiar channel based syntax and fixture library based patching, the 500 series desks make programming automated lighting easy.
- All programming can be controlled from a single display, there is no need to go back and forth between different screens.

Operating system

- Easily programmed from ergonomically designed keypads.
- Wide range of programming tools (groups, preset focus, multipart fades, sophisticated effects, etc) for unprecedented artistic freedom.

Multi-user / multi-console operation

- Up to 5 operators can work on different parts of a show independently. The master console can be partitioned allowing independent programming of separate elements (moving lights, effects devices and standard lighting for instance), thus speeding and simplifying the process of assembling even the most complex shows.

ShowNet networks

- Easy connection of DMX devices to control consoles.
- Simple and cheaper connections. A single cable carries remote video inter-console communications and 36 DMX universes.
- Ethernet taps connect consoles and SN series nodes over low cost category 5 wiring, delivering data wherever needed.
- Up to 18,432 DMX outputs.

Show control

- MIDI, SMPTE and ASCII show control are fully supported on 500 series consoles.
- Complete and thorough integration, providing precise timing and co-ordination within show systems.
- Up to 3000 events can be triggered from SMPTE to run cues, effects, macros and submasters.
- The internal SMPTE clock can optionally override the external clock input if it stops.
- SMPTE clock signal dropout protection.
- SMPTE frame rates supported are 24fps, 25fps, 30 drop frame and 30 non-drop frames.

Reporter software

- Control consoles and SV series dimmers can communicate system information.
- The dimmer rack can report temperature status, electronic status, load information (including lamp failure) and system information.
- Notification, logging and printing of dimmer and load information.
- The user can know at the console the status of all the lamps in the rig.
- Record rack-based back-up cues simply and easily.

Archiving

- Improved disk control and operation.
- 200 show files can now be saved in each directory without having to change the first eight characters of the show title.
- New archive categories for patch number, submaster page, events, ATC pages and separate set-ups, providing greater control of loading partial shows, printing and clearing.
- New start-up and shut-down displays and enhanced screen fonts for increased legibility.

Processor

- Powerful, state-of-the-art Pentium II processor - Strand is the only manufacturer to use this most powerful processor.
- Easy to upgrade.
- Support a very wide range of peripherals.
- TCP/IP networking.

NEW 500 SERIES CONSOLES LAUNCHED

Strand Lighting launches redesigned versions of their highly successful, market-leading 500 series desks, accompanied by the new release (Version 2.3) of their GeniusPro/Lightpalette operating software.

The new 500 series desks, with their Pentium II processors, are the most powerful desks in the market. They offer up to 6000 channels - twice as many as the nearest competitor and 18,432 DMX outputs. 500 series consoles can be specified at a base level but are readily extendable with incremental channel capacity upgrades, optional application software and a range of peripherals.

The 520i, 530i and 550i desks have been improved both ergonomically and aesthetically for easier, smoother, faster and more accurate moving light operation control. Ergonomically designed key pads and fader knobs, large high-resolution trackball (16 bits) and simple to user rotary encoders provide fully integrated motion control. Using familiar channel based syntax and fixture library based patching, the 500 series desks make programming automated lighting easy, and all programming can be controlled from a single display.

Up to 5 operators can work on different parts of a show independently. The master console can be partitioned allowing independent programming of separate elements (moving lights, effects devices and standard lighting for instance), thus speeding and simplifying the process of assembling even the most complex shows. The new 500 series desks also fully support Strand's ShowNet network, allowing 500 series control consoles to be connected to a myriad of DMX devices via a single cable.

MIDI, SMPTE and ASCII show controls are fully supported on the new 500 series consoles, for precise timing and co-ordination within show systems. SMPTE timecode is supported at the audio input. New features include: (a) up to 3000 events can be triggered from SMPTE to run cues, effects, macros and submasters; (b) the internal SMPTE clock can optionally override the external clock input if it stops; (c) there is SMPTE clock signal dropout protection; (d) SMPTE frame rates supported are 24fps, 25fps, 30 drop frame and 30 non-drop frame.

The new Reporter software provides notification, logging and printing of dimmer and load information when used in conjunction with Strand's reporting dimmers, the EC90SV/CD80SV. The dimmer rack can report temperature status, electronic status, load information (including lamp failure) and system information The user can know at the console the status of all the lamps in the rig, and can record and edit rack based back-up cues simply and easily.

All fixture libraries have been updated to include the latest products from Vari*Lite, Clay Paky, High End Systems and Martin. Also featured is a DMX Preview mode for improved integration with Real Time Visualisation tools (WYSIWYG).

Strand 500 Series consoles have enjoyed an outstanding year, having been specified as the lighting control engine in many major theatrical projects worldwide, including the San Francisco Opera House and a host of theatrical and Broadcast production facilities. In the UK, the 500 Series consoles can be found in almost all of London's leading venues, including the Royal Opera House, Sadlers Wells, the Royal Festival Hall, the Royal National Theatre and London's South Bank theatre complex, as well as the Guildhall School of Music & Drama at The Barbican. They have also been successfully installed at the world-famous Royal Shakespeare Company in Stratford, England, and the Vienna State Opera in Austria.