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L-ACOUSTICS HELPS MAKE A NIGHT TO REMEMBER

K-1 pilot programme continues with a visit to The O2 for Bryan Adams UK arena tour, writes Simon Duff

Last month's Arena tour by Canadian soft rocker Bryan Adams marked the UK debut for L-Acoustics' new line source sound system. Branded the K-1, it is being seen as the heir to the highly successful V-DOSC, with already successful line source array work completed for Radiohead's North American tour this August and in France for a Lenny Kravitz outdoor arena concert. Bryan Adams has been a long-term V-DOSC user so Britannia Row Productions, which supplied the PA and a Midas PRO6 console for the tour, felt the timing was right to use the K-1. The show ranges from Adams singing and playing an acoustic guitar to hard rock with his backing band - a good musical variation with which to put a new system through its paces.

A pilot programme to extensively field test the K-1 was launched by L-Acoustics in July. Aimed at existing members of the DOSC Network - primarily V-DOSC and KUDO owners - the programme is expected to last for some two years, prior to the official launch of the future L-Acoustics Stadium Line source array system. K-1/KUDO pilot rental companies are closely collaborating with L-Acoustics' R&D team and technical support. Early stages of product feedback are placing an emphasis on preset validation, stadium system configurations design, rigging and general system setup and operation. Pilot companies are being offered a path leading to system ownership prior to its formal market introduction.

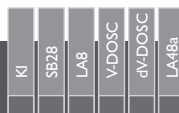
Britannia Row's first encounter with the new system came in August after L-Acoustics invited Bryan Grant and Mike Lowe, from Britannia Row, to Paris to listen to a K-1 set up for a field test near L-Acoustics' HQ. During the demo eight boxes of K-1s were flown alongside a similar amount of V-DOSC and KUDO. Lowe comments on their reaction to the demo. "We were blown away by the sound of the K-1 and loved it. We thought that the coherency had definitely moved up a level from V-DOSC."

Grant adds: "Certainly in the low mid and high bass areas it was fantastic. KUDO has been worked on in recent times and that was sounding great as well. V-DOSC is still very good but the K-1 is a more powerful system."

Although no official K-1 technical spec has yet been released by L-Acoustics, the array features a fixed horizontal coverage pattern and a maximum 5° inter-element angle - a design clearly optimised for the very large gauge applications found in stadiums. The rigging has been simplified and modernised for a fast and efficient rig with all parts integrated into the box design.



Bryan Adams UK arena tour



Sound Provider



Bryan Adams' UK tour ended at London's O2 Arena with the main line array for the FOH consisting of 16 K-1 elements per side with three dV-DOSC hung by a frame adapter underneath. For the side hang covering the arena seats, 12 V-DOSC per side with six dV-DOSC hung underneath were in use. Completing the main line up were nine per side ground-stacked SB28 sub-bass elements. The K-1s were driven by the new LA-RAKs (featuring L-Acoustics LA8 amplified controllers). LA48s were used for the V-DOSC and dV-DOSC, while Dolby Lake Processors were used for all other L-Acoustics enclosures. [...]

Working as a FOH system engineer for the tour, and an L-Acoustics Certified V-DOSC engineer, was Sherif El Barbari. For the past 18 months he has been closely involved with the development of the K-1 working for L-Acoustics. He says: "The system is the next step from the V-DOSC, which is now more than 14 years old. Of course in that time many things have developed. For example, components such as transducers have evolved so there are much more powerful ones in these new 15" and 17" speakers. To cope with this increase in energy now we have three high-end drivers rather than the two high-end drivers used in the V-DOSC."

For the tour, Sherif El Barbari has been using L-Acoustics soundvision software, a 3D acoustic sound simulation software, dedicated to L-Acoustics products, allowing system designers to model products for correct placement of speakers and to be able to accurately predict the sound in a venue. He adds: "I helped develop the system and it does need quite some knowledge and dedication to be able to actually use this tool in the right way. Basically I am trying to transfer this knowledge to the other techs on this tour."

The combination of technologies for The O2 Arena lives up to expectations. A warm, subtle but hugely powerful mix keeps a sell-out crowd hooked into Bryan Adams' brand of clever, honest, goodrocking, blue-collar songs.



Bryan Adams played his hits, old and new



The main line array at the O2 consisted of 16 K-1s

