



REFINING SOUND

For a music lover, listening to the new ASKJA Origin system will be an ear-awakening moment. Didier Kwak, a 25-year veteran in the film production industry who built his first speaker at age 15, founded Askja to reproduce sound as if the listener was “immersed in a vivid, lifelike presentation of a live musical performance.”

The development grew out of his early disappointment with studio sound reproduction. “It was a disaster,” says Kwak. “All the dynamics of the instruments, the tone, everything was lost. It was years that I was disappointed by the auditory, so it was why I decided to create my own system.”

With a respect for the Formula One design and his interest in psychoacoustics, Kwak worked closely with Swiss Fibertec’s Elmar Jaeger, designer of two Formula One Ferraris driven by World Champion Michael Schumacher, and partners in Denmark, Germany, and Japan to blend fluid mechanics,

aerodynamics, and psychoacoustics into an audio system that replicates true sound.

The system’s enclosures are designed to ensure sound waves flow through and “bounce off” without creating vibration. The power supply sets the stage; the volume doesn’t have to be loud when the contrast between notes is dynamically clear. The player is a hybrid digital-to-analog converter designed by TOTALDAC to play from a wide range of sources. The filters are separate from the speakers to eliminate mechanical interference, and with materials such as copper and silver, they maintain the signal’s integrity.

“My goal was try to reproduce the truth in terms of dynamic, in terms of precision. My goal was what I call veracity,” Kwak says.

The speakers measure three by two and a half feet and stand four and a half feet high and are made with composite materials used in the Formula One design molded to reduce unwanted resonance and diffraction. Even the console is designed against vibration, and each system installation is completed after an acoustic study with onsite setup completed by ASKJA specialists. With finishes from polished high gloss to Hermes leather, the ASKJA Origin system is a piece of art. www.askja-audio.com



IN BRIEF

Da Gama Maritime has created the new **Vasco** app to provide weekly chart corrections approved by the UK Hydrographic Office. www.dgmaritime.com

Lürssen has acquired **Blohm+Voss** to build upon their existing refit and repair services and expand into the military sector. www.luerssen.com

Maritime Professional Training is offering an oral prep course prior to the upcoming MCA Engineering Oral Exams coming to Fort Lauderdale October 31 to November 4. www.mptusa.com

CLOUD CONTROL

In an age of network privacy and security, YachtCloud has a solution for ETOs and engineers with the launch of Echo. Allowing device management throughout the yacht, Echo enables access to specific network devices only to those authorized for use, i.e., onboard guests cannot accidentally select the owner’s personal devices, such as a TV or laptop. Likewise with crew, the system safeguards privacy and optimized user access by ensuring network users only see their approved devices.

Designed as a complete network management and authorization tool, ETOs, engineers, and those authorized manage users, permissions, and devices via Echo’s web portal, where a clear overview of all registered users and devices on the network and per VLAN is available. ETOs and engineers also can search by user and/or device for quick access and implementation of permissions, and any void or expired registered users can be quickly and easily removed. An important security feature is that unreported and/or unregistered devices are unable to gain access to the network. The Airplay/Chromecast gateway is within the same portal allowing allocation of specific user devices to specific rooms. Conversely, the control gateway, also within the same portal, allows user devices to control specific rooms. In the end, YachtCloud’s Echo system allows personal devices to remain private and the yacht’s network to remain secure. www.yachtcloud.eu

