



Prism Projection booth showing the Reveal color wash LED profile spot fixture.



At the Robe booth there were a variety of new products including the ROBIN 300 Plasma Spot and Wash, ROBIN 300E Beam, Spot and Wash, ColorBeam 700 AT, ColorSpot 1200E AT Profile, CityScape Xtreme, CitySource 96 and CityScape 48.

Guest Commentary:

LDI 2009: Big Crowds, Big Awards & Greener Lighting
By **iSquint**

The Lighting Dimensions International (LDI) Show 2009 in Orlando, Fla., surpassed all expectations this year. Even in the country's tough economic times, attendance was larger than many were expecting. And while there was less of a presence of lighting companies on the show floor (many of the regulars were either absent or cut their booth size considerably), those manufacturers that did attend debuted some of the industry's most innovative, forward-thinking lighting products to date. Who wouldn't want to be a part of such an exciting year at LDI?

The Winner's Circle

LDI

There were so many new products announced at the show. The talk of the show had to be the RSC LightLock, which is distributed by Total Structures. In fact, the LightLock won this year's Best Debuting Product Award for Rigging and Staging at LDI. The LightLock makes it possible to hang a moving light anywhere in space with just two hanging points. This is a huge advantage for the lighting world because changing a moving light from just two points would cause the light to twist uncontrollably. The LightLock cor-

rects the unwanted twisting action and keeps the fixture focus on stage.

An honorable mention for Best Debuting Rigging Product was ETC's Prodigy Low Profile Hoist. ETC entered the rigging market with three types of automated rigging hoists: the electric hoist, the general purpose hoist and the houselights hoist. Perfect for smaller venues, the electric hoist adds motorized control for electric, stage drops, curtains, projections screens, house lights and many more possibilities. The Prodigy Hoist systems are controlled by ETC's new QuickTouch Control System.

With its RevEAL Color Wash LED fixture, the Prism Projection took home the Best Debuting Lighting Product Award. Not only does the RevEAL use LEDs, but the fixture also utilizes proprietary control algorithms and projection optics to produce a smooth and even field of light with no color shadowing found in many RGB LED fixtures.

Some other LED products announced at LDI were Color Kinetics ColorReach TR Powercore. Think of the Powercore fixture series as four ColorBlast fixtures combined in a one yoke fixture with over 5,000 lumens of output. The ColorReach

TR Powercore was designed specifically for the rental and touring markets to stand up to the rigors of being well-abused and used.

While on the subject of LEDs, ETC showed off its next line of Selador LED fixtures, the Fire and Ice. ETC used the x7 fixture as a basis for developing Fire and Ice by adding more amber and red LEDs for the Fire fixture and more Blue and Violet LEDs for the Ice fixture. Individually, these fixtures are able to produce more intense, brighter reds and ambers for the "Fire" fixture, and more cool blue and green colors with the "Ice" fixture. When focused together, the Fire and Ice not only provides greater color control and mixing possibilities, you get a much cleaner and crisper white.

A Greener Industry

LDI

It was clear that manufacturers are becoming more and more environmentally conscious. Some products, like Apollo Design's Laser Cut gobos, deserve special mention here. Just recently, Apollo retooled its entire metal cutting gobo manufacturing process from chemical etching to laser cutting. The process is so precise, Apollo was able to laser cut two paragraphs of text onto an M-size gobo, which was still legible under an eye piece. They won the Green

Product Award this year at LDI.

Another innovator in the push to "go green" in the entertainment industry is SeaChanger. It's widely known that SeaChanger utilizes a Source Four as the light source in their original design of their mixing unit. But just recently, SeaChanger began using the more energy efficient LIFI Plasma light source in their latest products, the Nemo and Nautilus fixtures. The Plasma uses only 320 watts of power and produces 10,000 lumens of output and a lamp life of over 15,000 hours. Compared to a HPL750, not only is the Plasma source cutting energy use by half, but it also increases lumen output and lamp life.

The move towards a greener light has been not only encouraged by the lighting community, but also the federal government. In the years to come, we will see lighting manufacturers use more energy efficient light sources while still offering the level of control and output that lighting designers look for. This year's LDI show demonstrated that manufacturers are committed to building a greener lighting industry while maintaining quality products that we can count on.

—iSquint is the nom de plume of Justin Lang on his blog site, squint.com.



Novella Smith, ETC's LED marketing manager and co-creator of the Selador LED series (with Rob Gerlach) demonstrating Selador's new Fire and Ice fixtures.



Apollo Design Technology's booth featured Laser Cut gobos. Apollo retooled its entire metal cutting gobo manufacturing process from chemical etching to laser cutting.