AEQ

AEQ's Director of R&D on AEQ entering the RAVENNA community - Toward AES X192 with RAVENNA.

AEQ decided to join RAVENNA platform for the implementation of a global standard for the broadcasting industry with regards ot audio networking over IP.

AEQ is a European company. We are in an area with a common parliament and dozens of official languages. Sometimes it could be considered a miracle that we actually understand each other. This is why we are so concerned about being able to use a common "language".

Can you imagine yourselves that every time we write a page in English we would have to pay ten cents (or shillings) to the heirs of Shakespeare for his contribution to the most commonly used language? Or if you were to write in Spanish, maybe we only would have to pay a penny per page, but it would be compulsory to insert a footnote on evey page with the legend; "this language was created by Cervantes"?

What would happen in our (broadcast) industry?

Imagine that a DENON CD digital output would be incompatible with the input of an AEQ mixing console. Fortunately it is compatible because we are both adopting a normalized standard; AES 3 (AES / EBU).

Imagine the headache if an AEQ console should not be able to connect in multichannel mode with a STUDER router/switching matrix? Fortunately we are all adopting AES10 (MADI)

The same would be the case if the AEQ Phoenix IP codec would not be able to communicate with a COMREX IP codec. Fortunately AEQ chose to adopt the EBU-Tech 3326 of the N / ACIP group that COMREX also joined at a later stage.

These are the sort of reasons why in the professional audio industry we have organisation like AES and EBU that are advocating the interoperability among manufacturers - to the benefit of broadcasters. Just like us, there are dozens of manufacturers anxious to avoid the tower of Babel, while others invent languages, some very well structured, but yes, all incompatible.

The moment when AEQ was focusing to choose the way forward in digital interconnection of equipment using IP protocols, with the apparent advantage of using "off-the-shelf" hardware with moderate cost, we observed several proprietary approaches. Some are open to other manufacturers to acquire red or blue cards, more or less expensive; other approaches are simply exclusive and closed. We also noticed that there was a group of manufacturers sharing information, developing solutions based on standards of public domain and without the eagerness to collect royalties or sell cards. Their main concern being just like ours; interoperability at the service of users. And with one goal: to work with AES to develop the common standards that should govern all, the "AES X192.High-performance streaming audio-over-IP interoperability"

AEQ has joined RAVENNA with the objective to work through this partnership in the preparation and implementation of AES X192. Our commitment is to provide users with IP interconnection of audio equipment in professional and broadcast environments with the additional commitment of trying to facilitate the interconnection via IP to existing equipment, manufactured prior to AES X192 being a standard.

Therefore AEQ announces its entrance in the RAVENNA community - our way of contributing to the implementation of AES X192.