

AUDIO ENGINEERING SOCIETY VISIT MERIDIAN HQ

July 2023

Audio Engineering Society Visit Meridian HQ

In June 2023, eleven members of the Audio Engineering Society (AES) UK Section attended a facility tour of the Meridian HQ in Huntingdon. Welcomed by Cambridge Section Chair and Meridian R&D engineer, Dr. Steve Oxnard, the guests enjoyed a packed day of demos, presentations and company updates.

Following an introductory presentation from Meridian CEO, John Buchanan, the group visited the Meridian Product Evolution Collection, which showcases the company's first ever loudspeaker, the M1, and the extraordinary-looking M10 loudspeakers. Des Ford, Technical Marketing Manager, then led a tour around the factory to see first-hand how the team assembles all its products. This reinforced the message that, rather than following much of the UK industry in outsourcing this element of manufacturing, Meridian continues to invest strongly in PCB assembly, inspection and test capabilities, all in-house.

Director of Sales, Barry Sheldrick, led the demonstrations in the media room and theatre. The group commented: 'both AV installations were capable of producing impressive levels of bass. The "smaller" in-wall installation being particularly impressive in its ability to render low frequencies at high SPL with just three ten-inch drive units.

The demos didn't stop there, with Barry also introducing the group to Meridan's all-new DSP9 loudspeakers, the flagship DSP8000 XE and Meridian's patented HPA (High Power Array) technology, which allows three loudspeakers to be used as a single sound source.

The group split at this point, with some continuing the DSP8000 XE listening session, whilst others opted to visit the Meridian's Automotive Lab. Here, Meridian is not only exploring the use of its high-end active loudspeaker technology for in-vehicle use, but also investigating the use of "haptics" – in which low-frequency components of the audio signal (typically 40-500Hz) are extracted, processed and fed to actuators which impart vibrations to the listener's seat.

The day concluded with Steve and other members of the Meridian Engineering team presenting some of their recent research work. Chris Cotton, Graduate Research Engineer, opened this session with an interesting approach to room-correction equalisation (Meridian RE-Q Technology). Chris then presented his work into methods for quantifying apparent source width. Finally, Ethan Stanhope, Research Engineer, discussed in greater detail the haptics work that had been demonstrated earlier that day.

Mike Turner, 2023 Chair of UK AES Section Committee commented:

“Thank you very much for your time and hospitality during the AES visit to Meridian. I know I speak for all the attendees in saying that it was a fascinating, informative and most enjoyable day, with many impressive products, facilities, people and technologies on display. Really nice to see a UK-based facility investing in the future of our national electronics industry.”

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ABOUT MERIDIAN AUDIO

Meridian, the award-winning British technology audio pioneer and innovator, has been creating innovative audio technologies and elegant, high performance audio products since 1977.

Meridian’s ambition is to enable people to listen, enjoy and fall in love with their music and movies wherever they are, and its renowned sound philosophy can be applied in all listening environments.

From the flagship DSP loudspeakers with integrated amplification, to discreet and powerful in-wall loudspeakers, Meridian engineers design easy to install, high resolution audio systems for astonishing residences and super yachts. Meridian’s products are sold by custom integrators and audio specialists in more than 80 countries worldwide.

Many of the world's most ambitious brands trust Meridian to support their audio system design. Customers include British Airways, Human Horizons, LG Electronics, Jaguar Land Rover and Kia. These partnerships enable millions of consumers around the world to experience Meridian sound throughout their homes, and in automotive, marine and airline settings. Learn more at www.meridian-audio.com.

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