

2010 FIFA World Cup™

MRL Newsletter



Edition #46 - 7 July 2010

MRL DAILY BRIEFING RECAP

- A script (subject to change) and music cue sheet for the 2014 emblem unveiling show are now available from the IBC BIO and on the Live Feeds Information platform.
- Tomorrow's FIFA Media Briefing will be dedicated to the 2014 FIFA World Cup™ Brazil.
- There will be no MRL Briefing tomorrow. Instead there will be a briefing dedicated to the Closing Ceremony, organised by FIFA, the LOC and VVV.
- A one-off mix-up in the graphics database led to erroneous information appearing onscreen during yesterday's semi-final.
- The booking deadline for M63 is tonight at 23:00; the booking deadline for the Final (M64) is tomorrow 8 July at 12:00.

DISMANTLING PROCESS

MRLs are reminded that procedures regarding the handback of their premises and the closure of the IBC are available both at the Construction Help Desk and at the IBC BIO.

SOUND ADVICE FROM THE AUDIO PRODUCTION TEAM

It is the job of the HBS audio team to provide the aural landscape of each live match in creating an ambient backdrop for commentary and recreating the overall sense of being at the stadium for the viewing and listening public.

"We have used a standard multilateral microphone plan," explains Christian Gobbel, Senior Engineering Manager, "combining various components to generally create three main mixes, TVIS (Television International Soundtrack) Stereo, RIS (Radio International Soundtrack) Stereo and 5.1 (MCIS – Multi-Channel International Soundtrack)."

The standard microphone plan features 12 identical directional shotgun microphones (the "industry work horse" Sennheiser 416) arranged around the pitch, Schoeps Super CMIT digital microphones, for increased directionality, dedicated camera-associated microphones, and Schoeps ORTF stereo and surround arrays. "We have strived to achieve consistency," continues Christian. "From a technical point of view this means using the same mics, audio mixes and equipment, as well as the crews adhering to the same guidelines."



Christian Gobbel, second left, and the IBC Audio Production Team - mixing it up



The Audio team, consisting of two Production Sound Supervisors, one Guarantee and one Maintenance Engineer and four technicians at each venue as well as two Quality Control Audio Supervisors, two Surround Sound Supervisors and two EBIF Sound Engineers at the IBC, received extensive training before the tournament to ensure that the theory and practical guidelines are uniform. "We spent a lot of time on improving loudness-orientated measurements," adds Christian, "that is measuring loudness at a technical and perceived level to maintain consistency."

Using newly designed surround arrays to provide an improved spatial sense and more exciting ambience, as well as digital microphone technology to improve pitch-side sounds, such as ball kicks, were part of the aim in helping to create the true audible experience of being inside an African stadium. Of course, there is one other significant element to this FIFA World Cup™ experience, related to the vuvuzelas. Following the experience of the FIFA Confederations Cup 2009, HBS modified its audio production plan to minimise any disruptions caused by vuvuzelas. In particular, extra ball microphones were purchased and commentator headsets upgraded. "We've worked hard with the vuvuzelas," says Christian, "reaching a good compromise in filtering out some of the tonal component without hurting the overall aural soundscape of an African experience."

ALL WE HEAR IS RADIO SPA SPA...

A Spanish flag with the words 'Plaza de España' adorns the wall in the corridor of Hall 6 which houses the radio broadcasters from Iberia. However, if Spain defeat Germany tonight to reach the FIFA World Cup™ Final there will be no party on the Plaza as they will be busy relaying the atmosphere, ambience and action from Durban and various Spanish cities to their listeners.

"We plan to connect with different cities around Spain," explained Carlos Vanaclocha, Producer for Cadena COPE, "we will be where the people gather to watch the game in cities, towns and villages to take in the ambience and emotion of the Spanish people."

While the match itself is very much a visual experience the potential radio audience is huge thanks to the particular habits of the Spanish public. "Usually many people go to screenings in the streets in big cities and I think they watch the match on the big screen but listen to the commentary on the radio," stated Arantxa Rodriguez, Producer for Onda Cero.

The magnitude of the game certainly increases the pressure to deliver, but it is met with relish. "We can compare this to the Euro 2008 Final but the World Cup is bigger. I've been to three World Cups and we always look at the Brazilians, the French and the Italians in the big matches, we are quite nervous but we are sure this is going to be Spain's time," Arantxa added.

With the whole nation gripped in anticipation for Spain's first FIFA World Cup™ semi-final there must be an expectation of superb audience figures? "It is difficult to know how many people are listening but I am sure it will be a record," Arantxa claimed. "This is historic for Spain, my family tell me the atmosphere at home is amazing."

For Radio Nacional de España it has been an objective to maintain the link with home. "We try to constantly connect between Spain and South Africa," explained Team Leader Jose Luis Toral. Specifically for the semi-final they are pulling out all the stops to reach every corner of Spain. "We will have several radio stations working for us in different parts of the country, including one in the village where David Villa was born."

It is not just the football team that will be hoping to make history tonight. "We are just ten years old," added Rafael Sahuquillo Nuévalos, Frequency Coordinator of Radio Marca, "so for us this is the most important broadcast in our history. We will have a special programme from the fan park next to the Bernabéu stadium and three journalists will be in Durban."



Carlos Vanaclocha of Cadena COPE (left) and Radio Marca's Rafael Sahuquillo Nuévalos