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Reaching New Heights with Elation at Sagebrush Community Church

When Sagebrush Community Church of Albuquerque, New Mexico, built their new worship center, they decided to take visual presentation of their message to a new level with installation of a high resolution LED video screen by Elation Professional.

“Sagebrush had been using a large amount of video elements in the previous worship center but when they started the second phase project in building a new worship center, they wanted to improve upon that and chose the Elation EPV762 video panels,” stated Stephen MacArthur, Lighting Systems Designer and Engineer at VAST Technologies Inc., the Albuquerque-based systems design and installation company that completed the install.



More flexible video

VAST Technologies got involved with the new 2000-seat worship center based on their previous work at the ministry's various campuses, which included the Albuquerque location's original main worship center. "At the new worship center we wanted to expand the video elements and instead of projecting them in a static rectangle, we wanted to move those elements about the set and stage, envisioning new set designs."

The installation includes 100 LED video panels from Elation's Pro Video Series, 7.62mm pixel pitch EPV762 panels that are currently flown upstage and configured as two 50 panel sections (each 5' high x 10' wide).

The current positioning was chosen so that the content could be viewed from a wide angle as the house seating is shell style, something the EPV762 panels' 135° horizontal and 110° vertical viewing angle aids. Stephen comments, "In the current configuration they are hung in two sets of 50 panels but have been hung as large as the entire width of the stage. The viewing angle in the facility is extremely wide and



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because of that the 100 panels give us enough space coverage at the back of the band performance area to be adequately seen from all seats in the congregation.”

Expanding creativity

The Elation LED panels have given the church the ability to expand creativity in the way they use video by using the video panels alone, using video as lighting, or using lighting and video combined. The panels allow the creative team to enhance church services and are incorporated in a special program called Living Free. They are also used for other special events. Video of the church services is captured, edited and rebroadcast at other Sagebrush campuses around the Southwest and podcasts are posted online for download.

Moses Almanza is Lighting Director at Sagebrush, part of an in-house creative team that also creates all of the content for the screens. “The Elation panels have made our job easier for the production team because as a light source they’re very brilliant and the colors are amazing,” he says. “Because we were new to LED panels we weren’t quite sure what to expect. When they first turned them on just the brilliance of the color and what we were able to do with them was just amazing. They are powerful enough to overcome any of the lighting set-ups we put up and make it visually more aesthetic. It allows us to take our video productions to a whole other level.”

Stephen says that through use over the last 18 months, Sagebrush has had very few problems with them. “In fact, we had issues with only one panel out of the 110 that they own. The panels are easy to configure, maintenance is simple and they are easy to swap out if needed.”

Works with Elation lighting rig

The EPV762 video panels work with an Elation Platinum Series moving head rig made up of Platinum Spot 15R Pro, Platinum Spot 5R Pro, Platinum Beam 5R and Platinum Wash ZFX Pro fixtures, along with Elation TVL 3000 II warm white fixtures. The Platinum moving heads are flown in the FOH cat-walks, on upstage and downstage pipe-grids, as well as on stage and on multiple ground-supported towers and props.

“The Platinum series moving heads were chosen for their price vs performance ratio, high output vs low energy consumption and their compact size,” Stephen comments, adding that the Platinum ZFX LED moving heads give them greater flexibility in creating different lighting scenes. “They are very versatile and easy to use and I really enjoy working with them.” Stephen adds that the fixture’s built-in wireless DMX transmitter and receiver are utilized for ground-supported lighting to allow for more flexibility and speed in set changes. Meanwhile, the TVL-3000’s are used as foot lights for the main pastor for both services and video capture.

Long time partnership

VAST Technologies has partnered with Elation for the last 20 years and a combination of innovative products and customer support has been keys to the successful relationship. “Elation has been a ‘go to’ company for me because of the constant innovation,” Stephen states, who says he has always felt that Elation was able to provide products across a gamut of ranges that allow him to put together established sets and then improve those sets.



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“Having local support on a new product design at the facility was a must for both Vast Technologies and the church. It was important that they are located here in the US and are available rather than reaching out across a different time zone every time we have a question. The support has been spectacular since day one. The quick turnaround time on servicing and the support staff has aided us and our customers in keeping large format systems consistently operating over time,” Stephen concludes.

Sagebrush Senior Pastor: Todd Cook

Sagebrush Executive Worship Pastor: Chris Lethgo

Sagebrush Lighting Designer/Programmer: Moses Almanza

Main Worship Center Lighting:

100 x EPV762 LED video screen

1 x EPV Image VSC

2 x Platinum Spot 15R Pro

8 x Platinum Spot 5R Pro

6 x Platinum Beam 5R

8 x Platinum Wash ZFX Pro

4 x TVL-3000-WW

1 x EW-DMX-T

2 x EW-DMX-R

About Elation Professional

Elation Professional is one of the world’s leading lighting and visual solutions providers and is the global brand of Elation Lighting. Founded in 1992 and headquartered in Los Angeles, with European sales, distribution and support based in The Netherlands, Elation designs and manufactures a comprehensive range of innovative yet affordable lighting and video products that are distributed through a global network of dealers and distributors. Made up of a spirited team of dedicated personnel, Elation is setting new efficiency and performance standards in Platinum lamp and LED technology and is acknowledged for a comprehensive commitment to Total Support. As a company in expansion with a presence in a growing variety of market segments, chances are you’ve experienced Elation lighting at a concert, special event, TV, theater, late night venue, House of Worship, theme park, cruise ship, exhibition, architectural space or elsewhere. For more information, please visit www.elationlighting.com

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