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Ultra Music Festival Celebrates 20 Years with Elation Proteus™

The Activity turns to IP65 moving head for special anniversary design element on Main Stage. Guest LDs incorporate Proteus into performances

The world's premier electronic music festival, Ultra Music Festival, turned twenty this year and the occasion was marked, in part, by big beam lighting effects from an array of Elation Professional IP65-rated Proteus Beam™ moving heads that lined the top of the festival's iconic Main Stage.

Production and lighting design for the Main Stage was by The Activity, their ninth year of involvement with the festival. The Las Vegas-based production and design firm, headed by lighting veteran Patrick Dierson, wanted to do something special for the festival's 20th year and chose the Proteus Beam™ for a prominent look. "Because this was Ultra's platinum anniversary we wanted an element within the design that would specifically represent its 20 years of celebration and the Platinum Beam's bigger brother, the Proteus, seemed like the perfect choice," stated Dierson, who served as lighting and production designer on this year's Main Stage. The Activity worked directly with Ultra's creative director Richard Milstein, as well as AG Production Services who supplied all of the lighting and video elements for this year's Ultra.



Static, sky-tracking and show lighting

Dierson approached the project with a simple design aesthetic in mind for the Proteus lights but their role expanded as show time approached. "During performances they were to simply be twenty static beams reaching out over the downtown Miami skyline emanating from the structure and then produce sky tracking movements during the short set changes to maintain a level of visual excitement," he said. "By the time we were in full show mode, many of the guest LDs started to incorporate them into their performances, which obviously turned the units into a much larger production element for the performances."



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The 20th Anniversary edition of the spring music celebration ran from March 23-25 with over 165,000 revelers making their way to Bayfront Park in Miami. The three-day celebration ran like a highlight reel of EDM stars with 29 artists taking the Main Stage over the three days including names such as Swedish House Mafia, Hardwell, Steve Aoki, The Chainsmokers, Afrojack, Tiësto, David Guetta and many more.

Raw output in a compact IP65 housing

Twenty Proteus Beams sat atop the Mountain Productions-built Main Stage, ten fixtures per side, and splayed a barrage of dense 2-degree beams that could be seen for miles around. "The Proteus offered us the raw output that we required for sky tracking effects in a compact form factor with full IP65 rating," Dierson said of the weatherproof beam lights, which were completely exposed to the elements for a little over a week.

Outdoor events bring their own logistical challenges and Proteus has helped eliminate some of them such as the need for cumbersome (and costly) shrouds. Substantial power in a relatively compact IP package is another benefit as Dierson notes. "Having something that was of reasonable weight and size made the task of mounting the units significantly easier than going with the traditionally larger Xenon-based solutions for such an effect," he said of the Proteus Beam whose design features include CMY color mixing, color wheel, gobos, prisms and a frost filter. This was the second year running that The Activity has used the Proteus Beam on Ultra's Main Stage.

Another Elation lighting fixture used on this year's Main Stage was the Colour Chorus 72, a versatile 6-foot LED batten wash light (RGBA) often used for truss warming. When a powerful color-changing unit was needed for detailing and highlighting, Dierson built 112 of the LED battens into the architecture of creative director Milstein's stage design.

Ultra has come a long way in its two decades and a lot has changed along the way. But one thing is certain, with world-class artists returning year after year and a production that continues to surprise and excite, the Ultra experience is still magical.

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

For more information, contact:

Elation Professional US
6122 S. Eastern Avenue



www.ElationLighting.com

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Los Angeles, CA 90040

USA

Tel: (866) 245-6726 (toll free)

Tel: (323) 582-3322

sales@elationlighting.com

www.elationlighting.com

Elation Professional EU

Junostraat 2.

6468 EW Kerkrade

The Netherlands

Tel: +31 (0)45 546 85 66

info@elationlighting.eu

www.elationlighting.eu