

Eng Inf

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New Digital Sound Mixing Desk



On the 16th September, BBC Radio took delivery of the all-digital sound mixing desk from Neve Electronics Ltd of Cambridge. Accepting the desk the Deputy Managing Director of Radio, Charles McLelland, said "The new desk is a major step towards the all-digital circuit from microphone to receiver. It offers greater flexibility than conventional analogue desks, and will bring even better quality to BBC Radio pro-

grammes". The following day, studio managers and other staff had the opportunity of inspecting the installation.

The desk is the result of a collaborative agreement between Neve and the Engineering Research Dept, whose COPAS digital audio processor has been further developed by Neve to form the basis of the new console.

The new desk has been

fitted into a specially designed articulated trailer which has expanding sides to improve stereo listening conditions. The desk controls can be dismantled from the trailer and connected back to the central processor via 150m of fibre-optic cable. "This will enable the equipment to be used across a wide-range of programmes" said Controller, Operations and Engineering, Russell Fletcher.

The desk is fully assignable and has been ergonomically designed jointly by Neve and the BBC, after an extended period of trials with operational staff. A large number of experimental features have been included in the design of the desk, ie. assignability, fibre optic communication, and digital processing, mixing and routing. The control surface, with a number of novel features, provides:-

Formats

Four formats are pre-programmed into the

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