

# Ray-On in Royan



The United Protestant Church of Royan L'Océan has upgraded its sound system with Active Audio Ray-On column speakers

**SITUATED ON THE COAST IN THE** west of France, the United Protestant Church of Royan L'Océan is a modern structure built in the 1950s after the city was heavily bombed towards the end of World War II and has a very specific concrete architecture. When the church's previous point source system – which had been in place for nearly 30 years – started to show its age, the church turned to Active Audio to provide a solution that would deliver clear music and speech.

"The church was previously equipped with a very old and simple sound system with speakers installed at various positions in the sanctuary," says Eric Grandmougin, marketing and sales director France for Arbane Groupe, parent company of Active Audio. "This was leading to problems with the quality of the music and voice intelligibility. They wanted to find a solution that would provide both intelligibility and musicality."

The Église Protestante Unie de France (EPUdF) is the union of the Église Réformée de France and the Église Évangélique Luthérienne de France. Jean-François Baudet is digital project manager for the EPUdF West, which covers the west of France including cities such as Le Mans, Nantes, La Rochelle and Vannes. A collaboration between the EPUdF West and Active Audio has been well-established for several years. Each time a church in the diocese submits an application for an AV upgrade, the EPUdF West supplies Active Audio with

photos and plans for each installation, after which the manufacturer conducts an acoustic study to define the type, quantity and placement of columns. Before installation, members of each church are able to listen to a demonstration of Active Audio's products at either the manufacturer's premises or, in the case of the United Protestant Church, during a celebration in a church in Nantes where a demo system was especially installed.

Following EASE 3D modelling of the United Protestant Church of Royan L'Océan, Active Audio proposed a solution consisting of just one Ray-On R70 and two Ray-On R110 column loudspeakers mounted on the wall with a floor-mounted IS110 10-inch passive subwoofer. "The new sound system offers the church several advantages," explains Baudet. "First, it provides an impressive listening experience. The low frequencies are very clear for music, and the voice is very rich. The Ray-On R110 columns have optimised the overall sound, ensuring excellent listening quality on the audience area. The system is powered by an Active Audio MPA 4350 amplifier which includes both delays for system time alignment and EQ presets. Shure SM58 wireless and CVG18 gooseneck microphones – along with Sennheiser EW DP ME4 lavalier models – were chosen for their cardioid directivity to reduce the risk of feedback.

"A second advantage is the use of the SoundCraft UI24R digital mixing console, which can be controlled

"The benefit of this Ray-On setup is that it can be easily adjusted for every size of venue, whether it's small, medium or large," adds Grandmougin. "It can be easily duplicated, even if the architecture and layout of the church is different. Jean-François [Baudet] has years of experience working as an AV consultant and there are multiple advantages to having every installation managed centrally through the EPUdF."

In terms of video projection, the United Protestant Church of Royan L'Océan has also undergone significant renovation and now features a fixed Epson laser projector with a very short throw, which projects a 3m-wide, bright (4,100 ANSI lumens) image in a 16:9 aspect ratio onto the wall. The Epson EB 770 F projector replaces the church's former projector and a mobile, retractable screen on a tripod which proved to be somewhat of an eyesore on the stage. In addition, the church is now equipped with Sony FDJ AX700 cameras and a Blackmagic



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remotely with a tablet or smartphone," continues Baudet. "As a result, the church's AV volunteers can discreetly adjust the volume of each microphone or instrument. The third advantage is the control of eight auxiliary outputs. This allows the connection of headphones for the hearing impaired and the future capability to manage sound for broadcast to YouTube broadcast or FM radio during important events. Finally, the flexibility of the new sound system means that instruments like guitars or a digital piano can be easily integrated into the audio setup."

Design ATEM Mini video mixer for broadcasting videos to YouTube.

"We choose to work exclusively with Active Audio because of the quality of their products," concludes Baudet. "Even with the varied dimensions of the churches in the diocese, the Active Audio speakers always fit the brief. But it's not just the products – their customer service makes them a natural choice and their site visits to fine-tune each system's settings are always appreciated by the client."

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