

CEDIA Sells Trade Show to Emerald Expositions

To CEDIA CEO Vin Bruno, his organization's future lies in developing the industry's next workforce—boys and girls that are sixth graders now. But to properly build awareness with the next generation of members and evolve its current educational tools and to generate more consumer awareness, CEDIA needed to make a big change.

That's part of the reason why CEDIA has sold ownership of its annual convention to Emerald Expositions, the largest trade show operator in the United States. Bruno said that with the resources that the association will now have available, CEDIA will seek to address the most important needs of its members: workforce development, education delivered more conveniently to members, consumer awareness, industry outreach, and providing more robust digital tools that will drive business to CEDIA members. At the same time, Emerald will bring its expertise, energy, and fresh ideas to the show, helping to improve the experience for all participants in the years ahead. The company runs shows



in many industry sectors, including gift, home and general merchandise, sports, design, construction, and technology.

"The future is bright for CEDIA members and the show," Bruno said.

CEDIA will continue to be deeply involved in the show, Bruno assured, working hand-in-hand with Emerald on overall show direction, as well as retaining control and ownership of all educational programming.

2017 will be a transitional year operationally as CEDIA will continue to manage many facets of the show, working alongside the Emerald team. Beyond 2017, Emerald will be responsible for all operational aspects of the show excluding educational programming and the CEDIA Awards event.

CEDIA members will continue to enjoy complimentary access to the show floor, special savings on all CEDIA education and training, and preferential access to hotel blocks based on join date. Exhibiting member companies will also continue to enjoy savings on their booth space.

ESPA Offers Help Finding Technicians

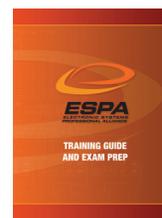
Last year was a successful growth period for the ESPA program with more qualified entry-level electronic systems technicians (ESTs) entering the workforce in 2017, as a result of technical education initiatives.

According to ESPA executive director Jeff Gardner, Lincoln Tech is now offering six EST programs across the country, utilizing the comprehensive NCCER curriculum, so students can receive a strong introduction to not only systems basics but deeper knowledge of most subsystems as well. Their programs on the East Coast administered 60 ESPA exams in January, meaning that those students are nearing the end of their 11-month course and will be entering the workforce soon. Gardner encourages home tech pros looking to hire entry-level technicians to contact their career services

offices in Union, NJ; Mahwah, NJ; and Columbia, MD for more information.

Several of ESPA's newer programs will be graduating ESPA-certified students soon, so home tech pros looking for new talent should reach out to the following schools soon: Maverick Tech, Nashua, NH; Los Angeles Trade Technical College, Los Angeles, CA; Kern High School, Bakersfield, CA; and Central Nine Career Center/Adult Ed, Greenwood, IN.

"Remember, the best new programs come to fruition because real employers engage the schools and help them understand the demand for qualified people and the skillset they need," Gardner said. "If you know of a school in your area, let us know at certification@espa.org."



Control4 Adds Cloud-Based Management to Pakedge Routers

To help its dealers bring intelligent home networks to more customers, Control4 has made BakPak management software available on Pakedge RK-1 Routers.

BakPak proactively manages both the IP network and smart home devices, for real-time visibility of network health, diagnostics, and troubleshooting before problems happen to mitigate downtime, service calls, and unhappy customers.

BakPak offers the ability for dealers to also remotely monitor home automation



products, including those connected via zigbee, Z-Wave, Ethernet, and Wi-Fi, bringing all connected devices into a single interface.

The RK-1 Router includes a dual-core processor and CPU to manage simultaneous streams of high-bandwidth, low-latency multimedia traffic including 4K and HD video, uncompressed audio, running VoIP telephone services, streaming video camera feeds, and supporting Control4 system applications.

Jetbuilt, VidCAD Phoenix Partner for Proposal Building



Jetbuilt has formed a partnership with VidCAD Phoenix, a provider of solutions to address the design and documentation needs of engineers, designers, and installers, to provide Jetbuilt users with more solutions. With VidCAD Phoenix integration, Jetbuilt users can build and sell their project in Jetbuilt, and with the push of a button, have their project show up in VidCAD Phoenix.

HDBaseT Expands to IP



The HDBaseT Alliance is developing an extension to the HDBaseT standard to support an HDBaseT over IP specification. HDBaseT over IP brings several benefits, such as the availability of a standardized solution over Ethernet physical layer (PHY), promoting 5Play interoperability among different vendors; and connecting the traditional pro AV and IP worlds, while leveraging existing installations.

Peerless-AV Launches Updated Training Program

Peerless-AV's new Certified Manufacturer Installer Training Program is

led by long-time industry experts who have extensive experience in sales application and engineering. This four-level program is offered in-person or online webinar options, with courses designed to demonstrate the importance of proper installation techniques and safety, and to address efficient methods to reduce the risk of faulty installations.

