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ARENA 2001 CINEMA MULTIPLEX OPENS IN BULGARIA WITH JBL

SOFIA, BULGARIA – June 12, 2003 – April saw the grand opening of a new multiplex in Sofia, Bulgaria. A total of 661 JBL speakers were used in this massive installation. Factor T.C. Bulgaria’s Acoustic Engineer, Vasil Armenkov, and President, Vesselin Todorov, undertook the multiplex project. Todorov, director of the installation team, handled all installation, testing and support services.

Arena 2001 has a total capacity of 3500 patrons. Arena 2001 contains 15 theatre halls, two of which are THX approved. A total number of 457 JBL Cinema Systems were installed in the theatres. In addition to the theatres, there are 11 restaurants and an on-site childcare center. In the childcare center, restaurants and surrounding areas 204 Control Contractor speakers were utilized. The JBL equipment list includes 5674 systems, 4632-T ScreenArrays, 3632-T ScreenArrays, 4645C subwoofers, 8340A surrounds, 8330A surrounds, Control 25T-WH, Control 26CT and Control 19CTS ceiling speakers. 179 Crown amplifiers, consisting of Crown CE1000 and CE2000 systems, powered the loudspeaker systems.

The venue owner, Mr. Minchev, was extremely pleased with the end result. “I’m proud that I have a sound system like the one in The Hall of Oscars in Hollywood,” he commented. Renowned Bulgarian system installer, Mr. Balev said, “Working with Factor and JBL was just like hitting the Jackpot.”



The massive Arena 2001 multiplex opened in April 2003.



JBL 5674 three-way speakers during installation.

The installation was not without its challenges. In order to adhere to strict security regulations in public places, the installation team had to quickly develop an evacuation system that would service all 15 halls simultaneously. The rapid development of a custom interface that interrupted the movie sound and switch to the emergency system, quickly remedied the situation enabling the crowd to be safely evacuated and the facility to open as scheduled.

Mark Bailey, JBL Professional Europe, Acoustic Engineer, supported Factor T.C. with design and system implementation logistics. "Arena is an outstanding example of cinema multiplex installation in Europe. It really does set the standard by which others must be judged. A lot of time and effort went into this project and I would like to thank all concerned," enthused Bailey.



Control Contractor speakers installed throughout the facility, including the lobby (above) and the childcare center (below).



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