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NEWS RELEASE

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WORLD CUP OPENING CEREMONY GETS “SIRIUS” WITH JBL VERTEC® LINE ARRAY SYSTEMS

Sirius Showequipment a.g. of Frankfurt, Germany deploys massive JBL VT4889 line array system on custom carts for world’s number one sports event.

NORTHRIDGE, CALIFORNIA, June 19, 2006 — The 18th FIFA (Federation Internationale de Football Association) World Cup™ got underway at the 66,000-seat Allianz Arena Stadium in Munich, Germany with a colorful, imaginative opening ceremony. A 37-minute multimedia theatrical production contrasted contemporary rhythms with contemplative segments. Germany, the host nation, chose to portray both traditional and modern aspects of its character, as Bavarian folk musicians, hip-hop dancers and rap artists shared the stage with 120 world-beat drummers and percussionists. Sound reinforcement services for the global event were provided by Sirius Showequipment a.g. of Frankfurt.

The FIFA World Cup was first established in 1924 and has grown into the world’s most popular sports event. Global television broadcasts brought the opening ceremony to more than 200 nations, with a world-wide viewing audience of 1.5 million persons.

A ceremonial highlight for this production featured supermodel Claudia Schiffer and Brazilian soccer legend Pele, who brought the FIFA World Cup Trophy into the stadium to a standing ovation from the capacity crowd. One hundred seventy former FIFA World Cup winners then entered the Arena, with large-screen video support playing memorable scenes from previous matches. German Federal President Horst Köhler officially declared the 2006 FIFA World Cup open, prior to the opening match between Germany and Costa Rica.

“A world-class production like this leaves no room for error,” advised Wolfgang “Schabbach” Neumann, audio crew chief for the event, which included 12 technicians plus supporting stagehands. “Pre-planning, reliable equipment and well-trained crews are critical to success on stadium events like this.”

Sirius Showequipment, with supporting equipment and crew from regional VERTEC® system owner Crystal Sound, was required to pre-stage the entire portable



Line Array On-Ramp: JBL VERTEC VT4889 line arrays with Crown amplifier racks on custom carts from Sirius Showequipment a.g., ready for field deployment at the 18th FIFA World Cup Opening Ceremony in Munich, Germany.

sound system, and craft a logistics and technical plan that would move the entire sound reinforcement system onto and away from the arena field while preserving critical competition playing greens.

“We relied on a total of 13 mobile carts, each fitted with four VT4889 line array elements,” noted Neumann. “A compact rack with Crown MA-5002VZ amplifiers was coupled to each cart-based array. We’ve been extremely satisfied with the Crown/JBL combination, having used it now for a broad variety of concerts, special events and multi-media productions throughout Europe and North Africa.”

With minimal time to remove the system prior to the start of the first soccer match, the audio team rehearsed the system setup and takeout on custom carts with the same precision required of performing artists in the complex, choreographed ceremony. System engineers for the World Cup Opening Ceremony were Klaus “Bob” Bolender and Christian Kimmig; Holger Munz handled the foldback monitor systems, with Patrick Eckerlin responsible for front-of-house mixing duties.



Holger Munz, monitor engineer (left) and Patrick Eckerlin, FOH engineer (right) handled live sound reinforcement for the 18th FIFA World Cup Opening Ceremony on June 9th in Munich, Germany.

“Leading rental sound and audio production companies like Sirius Showequipment provide invaluable input to JBL’s ongoing product development process,” noted David Scheirman, Vice President, Tour Sound for JBL Professional. “Demanding applications like the FIFA World Cup Opening Ceremony demand the highest level of professionalism from sound designers and the supporting audio crew, but they also create a tremendous level of performance expectation for loudspeaker systems. We’re honored to see JBL’s VERTEC line array system products being specified and used by these consummate professionals for the world’s leading sports event.”

Sirius Showequipment a.g. can be reached on the worldwide web <http://www.sirius-ag.net/>

About JBL Professional:

Headquartered in Northridge, California, JBL Professional is the world’s leading designer, manufacturer, and marketer of professional loudspeakers for recording and broadcast, musician, cinema, touring sound, commercial sound and contracting applications. Celebrating its 60th Anniversary in 2006, JBL Professional is the proud recipient of the 2005 Technical GRAMMY® award. JBL Professional is part of the Harman International network of professional and consumer audio companies. For complete product and company information, go to the JBL Professional website at www.jblpro.com.

About The Harman Pro Group:

Headquartered in Northridge, California, the Harman Pro Group is part of Harman International Industries, Incorporated (www.harman.com), a leading manufacturer of high-quality, high fidelity audio products and infotainment systems for the automotive, home and professional markets. The Company’s stock is traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol: HAR. Harman Pro Group companies include AKG Acoustics, BSS Audio, dbx, Crown International, JBL Professional, Lexicon, Soundcraft, and Studer.

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