

## Marineland - Antibes, France

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NOVEMBER 2011

Page 1 of 1



## MARINELAND

Company: Funktion One

Location: Antibes, France

Marineland in Antibes is one of the most popular aquatic parks in Europe. Located on a prime seaside site near Antibes on the Côte D'Azur, it is one of the main tourist attractions in the region and boasts numerous attractions dedicated to killer whales, sharks or dolphins.

Gilles Betho is the owner and Manager of AV installer - Decibel - which has been an audio contractor in the south of France for more than 25 years. Decibel had been providing technical support to Marineland for some years before being asked to find a way to improve the sound system at the dolphin pool. The ageing distributed system was creating too much spill over to the other attractions, while not giving the comfort or clarity necessary to the popular dolphin arena.

The oval shaped basin is surrounded by 170° of bleachers - 120 metres long in the near field - and with a capacity of 2,000. Having heard its systems at local festivals and noting the long throw, wide dispersion and highly intelligible vocal projection, Decibel approached Funktion One.

Funktion One's representative, Chris Hawkes from Solution One Audio, opened a consultation with Funktion One's system design team. They quickly came up with two proposals, both of which were mono stacks to be positioned across the basin and thus covering all the bleachers.

The first proposal was a high performance system, using Funktion One's proprietary Hybrid Array technology conceived for public spaces, and tailored exactly to the venue. The second proposal was a less bespoke, off the shelf system, comprising three Resolution 4 mid-high enclosures and two F218's which, stacked and placed on an existing platform, could be simple but effective. This smaller system powered

by a single Full Fat Audio FFA6004 quad amplifier and controlled by a single XTA DP444 processor seemed worth pursuing, because of its accessibility.

Gilles' initial reaction was to say that while the Hybrid Array System proposal was very comprehensive, comparatively the solution of three Resolution 4's didn't seem to have enough speakers. To project music and speech to so many people over such a wide area with just three 8-inch drivers covering the entire vocal frequency range seemed almost unfeasible.

Chris Hawkes convinced him that the Resolution 4's were capable of doing the job, and proposed a demonstration. During a sunny morning in March 2011, the system was stacked and cabled in a matter of minutes.

It was immediately apparent that the Resolution 4's were more than sufficient for the job and once the EQs were put flat at the FOH position, it was clear that the install was going to be stunning and the deal was sealed.

Funktion One provided special weather resistant enclosures and accessories. All the metalwork was provided in stainless steel to withstand the salty seaside air. Following the installation, Decibel has been complimented on the system. The operating team is very pleased with the clarity and evenness of the dispersion. With such great intelligibility, the system does not need to be pushed and so over all, levels have come down while the musical experience has vastly improved. The site managers are especially pleased, because the adjacent shows can now run more quietly since the dolphin show is now contained in the dolphin arena with little or no sound escaping.

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