The last time we reported on Funktion One in these pages it was, to offer the briefest of summaries, a small company poised at the threshold of greatness. So, where is it now, and what's been happening down on the Farm, the company's power base tucked away in leafy, soporific Surrey? Well, the ink on that last report was hardly dry before Funktion One made a very significant advance, incorporating proprietary technology. Before continuing, let me remind you what proprietary technology is. It means you can do things which others cannot. Last year they announced the Resolution 1, the first high power speaker system not to use a compression driver for the HF. If the advance was significant, the advantages were telling ones. Dramatically reduced distortion must come top of this list, resulting as it does in sound that is crisp, accurate and unfatiguing, even at high SPLs. The technique also provides a more smoothly integrated spectrum response and exemplary pattern control. Rivals have been unable to imitate or emulate this technology, and so the Res 1 remains unique, within its class, literally peerless.

Tony Andrews, whose creature Funktion One most assuredly is, has long been an advocate of quality amplification, of judicious matching between amp and speaker. His numerous and varied loudspeaker products have for years now come with underlined recommendations about suitable matching amplification. For a while now, Funktion One has itself sold 'suitable' amplifiers, commissioned from MC2, as companion units to its speaker systems. Today, you can delete the word 'suitable' and replace it with 'ideal' because, at the forthcoming Pro Light & Sound show in Frankfurt, Funktion One will launch its first powered loudspeakers, proven units with custom designed on-board amplification furnished by XTAs. At launch, there will be two, twin channel offerings: A4, which is designed to partner Resolution 2 cabinets, and A6 which will power 2 x F216 infrabass enclosures. Both units are Class T designs and boast impressive specifications. The A4 module adds a mere 3.2kg to the Res 2, which is hardly back breaking when you consider that it offers 1200W/Ohm into 4 Ohms, that it sports 96kHz DSP, which can be accessed via RS48S networking (the hardware is in situ, awaiting software), USB PC link-up for push button operation and is cooled by low noise demand regulated fans.

Figure fans will be impressed by the amp specs which include: 600W/ msSlew Rate; Damping Factor 1400; 5ms Rise Time; substantially flat response from around 15Hz to beyond 20kHz; miserly distortion of 0.005% 8R/1kHz with a negligibly maximum of 0.25% at clip point. 

Clockwise from top: Funktion One has found favour in a variety of venues, including Berghain in Berlin and Stealth in Nottingham; the smiles say it all - Tony Andrews and XTA Electronics Andrew Grayland listening to the F216 Bass; Res 1 new built in amplifier at the UK's Big Chill Festival; a cluster of Res 2s; Funktion One's David Brumell and XTA's Guy Lewis show show their working at this year's ISEEL.
FRANÇAIS

La dernière fois que nous avons écrit un article sur Funktion One, c'était pour introduire une petite compagnie au sujet de succès. Que l'on passe capilla dans la "fame", son rang niche dans le paysage arborescent du Sundance. L’un dernier public at the marketplace, where of course quiet is a word not often used. This industry has now come of age, and standards are as exacting as in any other part of the pro-audio arena. They benefit from the same level of personal attention from the mothership too. Tony, John Slewam, Alex and David Brunni maintain a close personal relationship with its products and projects. The interest and commitment don’t stop with the drop hit. The David Beckham Football Academy in Greenwich will have benefited from the same level of attention to detail as the staggering stereo stacks at clubs like Digital in Newcastle. These areas of business which Funktion One have developed consistently from their initial MI, and touring base. In the context of club systems, Tony was disappointed that such sophisticated, accurate, powerful potential should still be degraded by the use of poor (even domestic) quality mixing systems that he went out and sourced a dedicated unit, from Formula Sound, to ensure that the full performance capability was unleashed. This is typical of the approach, sedulous to the extreme, but it would not be inappropriate to say that the emphasis in the title Funktion One, should be on fun, for its most definitely is. The notion is, however tempered by the knowledge that, unless the fundamentals are in place, any chance of fun flies out of the window. Funktion One has now built for itself an important niche in the marketplace as the small company that thinks (and achieves) big. And that's just great. www.funktion-one.com

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Funktion On Form

Below: John Newsham of Funktion One checks on a Resolution 5 Cluster for a Jamiroquai gig at Tokyo Dome. Bottom: Karl Hyde (left) and Rick Smith (right) from Underworld with the first self powered Resolution 2s in their studio.

UK

into 8 Ohms, at which the output stages will swing 2 10V peak to peak. The A6 module gives similar data, but offers 2,250W/ch into 4 Ohms, having 400W rails and 4.5kW regulated PSU. As well as driving the F21/8 into which it is mounted, the A4 will also provide a sibling slave, making it highly cost-effective. If you are not a figures freak, if numbers leave you numb, then trust me, these are exemplary specifications, and you should expect great things. If you make it to the Funktion One demo in Frankfurt. (As usual, they are in the chapel adjacent to Halle 4). Two important milestones on this little company's path to greatness have already been achieved.

COMMERCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Away from the Farm and out in the field, Funktion One have been no less busy. The brand has quietly become a 'must have' in the danceclub and disco marketplace, where of course quiet is a word not often used. This industry has now come of age, and standards are as exacting as in any other part of the pro-audio arena. They benefit from the same level of personal attention from the mothership too. Tony, John Newsham, Alex and David Brunni maintain a close personal relationship with its products and projects. The interest and commitment don’t stop with the drop hit. The David Beckham Football Academy in Greenwich will have benefited from the same level of attention to detail as the staggering stereo stacks at clubs like Digital in Newcastle. These areas of business which Funktion One have developed consistently from their initial MI, and touring base. In the context of club systems, Tony was disappointed that such sophisticated, accurate, powerful potential should still be degraded by the use of poor (even domestic) quality mixing systems that he went out and sourced a dedicated unit, from Formula Sound, to ensure that the full performance capability was unleashed. This is typical of the approach, sedulous to the extreme, but it would not be inappropriate to say that the emphasis in the title Funktion One, should be on fun, for its most definitely is. The notion is, however tempered by the knowledge that, unless the fundamentals are in place, any chance of fun flies out of the window. Funktion One has now built for itself an important niche in the marketplace as the small company that thinks (and achieves) big. And that's just great. www.funktion-one.com

ITALIANO

L’ultimo volta che abbiamo parlato di Funktion One era per presentare una piccola grande azienda, in procinto di esplodere sui mercati di tutto il mondo. Crediamo che quando con stessa sicurezza che abbiamo visto nel futuro, il quartier generale della società nasce nel più profondo Sudanese, bene, finora stessa la Funktion One ha annunciato il lancio di Resolution 2, il primo sistema di altoparlanti ad alto potere di compressione per le alte frequenze. La concorrenza non è stata in grado di innovare e emulare questa tecnologia e quindi non una delusione. La più grande onda di alta qualità, altoparlanti fa un vero prodotto unico nella propria classe. Su propria volontà, Andrew, e, dopo che molti anni, è arrivata la funzione amplificazione. Il sistema di alta qualità, altoparlanti fa il suo debutto. La firma Funktion On. Non mancatte di visitare lo stand di Funktion One a Francfort.