

CUSTOM
C
NATION
INSTALLATION



CALIFORNIA DREAMING

*Video on demand with full
Control4 certification - Fusion
Research touch down in the UK*

IMERGE 1997-2010

BRITISH MANUFACTURER
CEASES TRADING

HERE TO STAY

AMX'S NEW MVP-9000I SHOWS THERE'S
LIFE IN DEDICATED TOUCHPANELS YET

LIGHTING THE WAY

FAB AV SWEEP CEDIA AWARDS
WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM HELVAR

Fusion
Research

GREEN THINKING

Lutron's range of intelligent dimmers has recently seen the arrival of a model specifically geared towards energy-conscious users. With its three touch buttons and seven LED indicators, the 'Rania eco-minder' largely retains the look and feel of its predecessors, the key difference being that said indicators will change to red to show that the user is not benefiting from energy savings – once the 15% energy saving level is reached, the LEDs will revert back to green.

The Rania eco-minder is available for order now from Lutron's network of UK distributors and lighting showrooms.

Contact: +44 (0)207 702 0657 | www.lutron.com/europe



James Meredith (left) with Opus' Business Unit Director, David Vukovich

OPUS

Opus Technologies has appointed James Meredith to its International Technical Sales Team. Formerly of Imerge, where his responsibilities included third party control integration and the development of international training programs, Meredith joins the company ahead of the launch of its new Opus 6 Series home automation system later this year.

Included in the announcement were some new details regarding the upcoming system, which will cover the key smarthome areas of HD video distribution, HVAC, windows/blinds and CCTV. Opus touchscreens, iPhones/iPod Touches and the Philips Pronto range will apparently make up the primary control options. Opus' Business Unit Director, David Vukovich furthermore commented that, "It's imperative that our international distributors enjoy a smooth transition between the existing 500 system and the new Opus 6 Series. HD video and streaming technologies will be key components of the Opus 6 Series, James' considerable knowledge and enthusiasm will assist us to fully realise the potential of these significant areas of product development."

For his part, Meredith stated that, "The new Opus 6 Series is a truly class-leading proposition. Naturally, I'm thrilled about the challenge of managing a successful international rollout of the new system and drawing on my experience to create networked video training systems to support Opus'-industry leading trade partner package."

Contact: +44 (0)20 7089 1888 | www.opus.eu

THE APPLIANCE OF SCIENCE

As noted elsewhere, the media server category has seen a few upheavals of late. There is some good news from across the Atlantic, however, courtesy of California-based Fusion Research, which recently saw its hardware line-up gain Control4 certification, making its media server systems the only ones thus far to boast a certified two-way driver for use with the popular IP-based automation platform.

The company's current line-up of purpose built video servers consists of the entry level Studio Movie Server retailing for a competitive £2145 SRP (excluding VAT), the recently introduced Encore, the video, music and photo-capable Genesis II and the flagship Cinema Server – the latter of which can be configured to serve up to 25 independent zones with as much as 20TB of internal RAID5 storage.

Blu-ray discs can be played directly on all Fusion units – should the end user wish to import Blu-ray discs, they can do so from their own computer on the network via a 'one-click' import utility. As far as DVDs are concerned, Fusion asserts that it does not break CSS (Content Scramble System) encryption during the importing process, and therefore doesn't require third party software to load them.

That's not the only similarity between the company's hardware and that of a certain other premium media server manufacturer that shall remain nameless – Fusion also keeps and maintains its own database of media information, with close to 75,000 titles and counting. Should the end user have any difficulty loading their disc, they can contact the company direct to have the relevant details added immediately, rather than having to wait for a separate company to update the title.



Another notable feature of the company's products is that users have the ability to add their own additional storage to expand their content library. A Fusion software license allows generic NAS servers to be used, instead of the pricey proprietary hardware required by other manufacturers, with no limit to the amount of storage that can be added. Overall, the company's offerings would seem to fall somewhere between the premium, all-proprietary approach of that rival we alluded to earlier at one end of the scale, and PC-based solutions reliant on third party operating systems and metadata services at the other. Resellers and installers interested in learning more should direct enquiries to Fusion Research's UK distributor, Habitech.

Contact: +44 (0)1420 540 054 | www.habitech.co.uk