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## IBC 2010 Release

### **Mode-AL flies away with the prestigious IABM Peter Wayne Award for Design & Innovation at IBC 2010 for Speed Rack**

Mode-AL's Speed Rack Fly Away system is the first and only hybrid 19" rack and large format screen mounting system for outside broadcast location specific applications.

Martin Salter, the Chair of the judging panel commented: "It is a pleasure to announce a winner of the IABM Peter Wayne Award that is not founded in a high tech electronics solution but is based upon a truly innovative understanding of a need and an equally innovative and elegantly simple solution"

Speed Rack is a culmination of Mode-AL's experience with multiple monitor mounting systems (Monitor Stacks & Media Walls) and input from some of the world's leading Outside Broadcast specialists.

Speed Rack enables all 19" rack mountable equipment to be quickly and easily adapted, using the existing 19" rack mount fixing points to attach to the Speed Rack system, and all non 19" rack mount screens, clocks, PC's, speakers etc to be mounted on to the same system.

The Speed Rack Adaptor (Nira) is the key to the versatility of the system. When the project began, the key targets to be met were the easy conversion of existing 19" rack equipment and the quick assembly and disassembly of the system. The Speed Rack Adaptor allows this to be done with all equipment; not just 19" racking. Manufactured from Grivory, (the same material as car door handles) this tough injection moulded plastic adaptor is low cost and very durable, giving many years of service and not being a significant cost consideration when moving over to the Speed Rack from traditional mounting systems.

The constraints put upon the system by the 19" rack equipment provided us with the initial guidance and in the final version we still use the 1u increment as the vertical module size, and the standard 19" hole spacing for the mounting screws, although we have standardised on M6 fixings. This allows us to interface with any piece of 19" rack equipment with no modification to the equipment front plate.

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Mode-AL is acknowledged as the world leader in the designing and manufacture of Monitor Stacks. Using this knowledge we designed the support structure, screen and non 19" rack mounts around our existing screen support structures used for our Monitor Stacks, allowing the already proven support systems to be ported over to speed rack; significantly reducing the development time.

The final challenge was the interface between all equipment with adaptors and the support structure. This was the most critical of the innovations, if the interface was too complicated or the ergonomics made the mating difficult, this would not give us a significant advantage over traditional 19" racks. Due to the requirements for high load, positive fixing and ease of use, we had to develop our own system. This development finally paid fruit and we patented the docking system in early September 2009.

When we introduced Speed Rack at IBC 2009, we were confident that the previous 12 months of research and development would pay fruit and the Outside Broadcast sector would adopt the new system. On day 1 of IBC this is exactly what happened, with approval from all of the interested parties that had set us the challenge. What was not expected however, were the 430 separate business and individuals from BT to NATO that requested detailed information on Speed Rack.

For Mode-AL the period between IBC 2009 and NAB 2010 became the most R&D intensive period of its existence culminating in a second patent and the release of Speed Rack full production version at NAB 2010. We went in to full testing mode at the World cup 2010 in South Africa, proving our system was fit for purpose. We are pleased to report a 60% reduction in build time, and due to the elimination of the 19" rack mount screen, the total cost of the system is less than any other comparable 19" rack based system.

Speed rack is now in full production and our design engineers are happy to configure the system to meet your requirements.

Stop press: Mode-AL has also been awarded the Broadcast Engineering Pick hit of IBC 2010 for Speed Rack as voted for by its readers.

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#### **About Mode-AL**

Mode-AL was founded in 2001 to manufacture Bespoke Modern Furniture for the domestic market. By 2001 we had found that our clientele was more commercial than domestic based and we have continued to design 'Furniture for Technology' since then. Now recognised as the market leader for high end AV and Broadcast solutions for mounting multiple monitors, we have developed our own range of screen mounts for this particular market concentrating on the ease of installation, quality and adaptability. These units combine with our support structures, providing a modular system for mounting screens and management of the cables and ancillaries.

Being acknowledged as the originator of the first Flat Screen Monitor Stacks, has enabled Mode-AL to develop an enviable client list including Turner, Telemundo, BBC, ITV, TV2A, ESPN, Sky, Sony, Panasonic, Fujitsu, Morgan Stanley, Price Waterhouse Coopers, Honda, Mercedes, Siemens, HM government and many more, not to mention many system integrators, Video Conferencing companies and AV installers all over the world.