



A Blur of Trade Shows



IBC, Amsterdam

The SCTE was delighted to support three important trade shows in September, and we were delighted to see each of them thriving. IBC in Amsterdam remains one of the most important for the SCTE; as co-owners we were also thrilled to see attendance of 43,000, not far off the 2019, pre-COVID-19 number, which is very encouraging. Each hall was bursting with innovation and the mood was upbeat.

Matthew Williams-Neale, Vice President Marketing, Appear, one of our Corporate Members, told Broadband, "IBC is an important show for us, and we were delighted with how it

went this year. Lots of engagement, lots of footfall. It's like old times. I am looking forward to 2024 already."

On the Monday, our Benelux Group friends produced an excellent lecture that was stimulating as it was inspiring, and it was very well attended, better than last year. Credit must go to Peter Veerman who worked so hard to put it all together. We were delighted to welcome our two Bursary winners, Besian Rexha and Betim Shalqini, from IPKO in Kosovo and in line with tradition, took them out for dinner to Oceania, our favourite Chinese restaurant on the Sunday evening.



Connected Britain, London

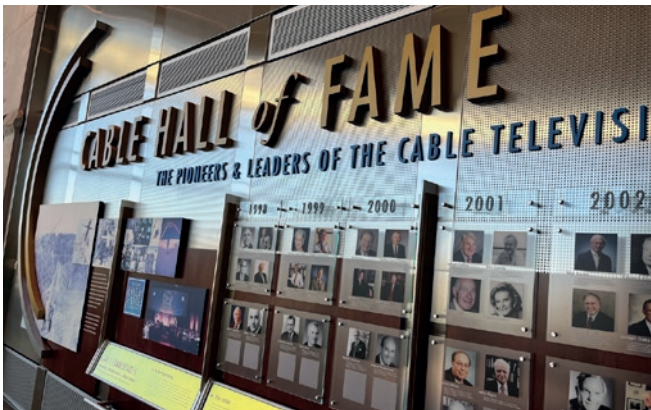
We had barely unpacked from IBC when we found ourselves at Connected Britain a few days later. Taking place at the ExCel in London for the first time, despite some industry grumblings a year ago it is absolutely the best place for a show that is now considerable in size and had long outgrown the Business Design Centre in Islington. Taking place over two full days the show welcomed over 5,000 attendees from all over Europe and the US, as well as the UK. Rob Chambers, Managing Director of show organisers Total said, "My feet have only just touched the ground, it was a monumental piece of organisation but I am so proud of the incredible job our team did at the ExCel for Connected Britain this year. They should be proud too. We've had nothing but wonderful feedback from our exhibitors and we are already in the planning stages for next year. Thanks to all who showed their support."



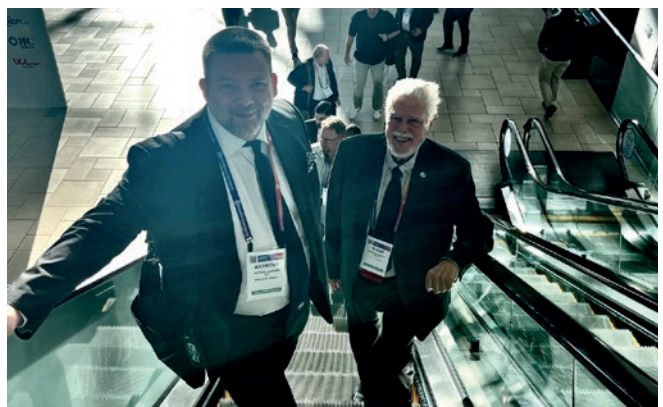
CableTec Expo, Denver

In October we looked up old friends and made new ones at CableTec Expo in Denver, Colorado, for the first time in a few years. It was an impressive event with the 57th Annual Cable TV Pioneers Banquet taking place on the first night. The exit of CEO Mark Dzuban after so many years heralds a new era for CableLabs, and the appointment of Maria Popo, a former president of the Women in Cable Telecommunications Rocky Mountain Chapter as the organisation's new CEO is a welcome one and we wish her the very best of luck in her new role.

We spent a few hours with our good friends Diane Shieman-Christman and Camilla Formica at the Cable Center in Denver; we had an extensive tour of the library and studios; Director of the Barco Library Brian Kenny demonstrated his substantial technical and historical knowledge in the vault of the incredible building they call home there. If there is a piece of kit from the past you need information on, this is the place to find it. Tony and Roger were both overcome with nostalgia and wonder, it was hard to get them to leave; we even found a seriously lifelike Ron Hranac immortalised in cardboard down there....



Clockwise from top left: Roger, Tony and Denver Convention Centre Bear getting to know each other, Brian Kenny, Director of the Barco Library at Synteo Institute at The Cable Center, Roger feeling nostalgic, cardboard cutout of industry legend Ron Hranac, Tony and Roger arriving at the Convention, Tony, Melissa at the dinner, Roger and Ron Hranac at the Cable TV Pioneers Dinner and the Cable Centre Hall of Fame.



SCTE Bursary Winners 2023

Each year the SCTE awards up to 24 bursaries to our members to help with their travel and accommodation to IBC and ANGA COM. This year the lucky recipients were Besian Rexha and Betim Shalqini, both engineers from our Corporate Member IPKO in Pristina, Kosovo. Great to have you join us Besian and Betim, glad you enjoyed the show!

Besian Rexha's Trade Show Report

Attending the IBC conference was an immersive journey into the forefront of broadcasting and streaming innovation. The sheer scale and diversity of the event created an electric atmosphere, with each booth and session offering a glimpse into the cutting-edge technologies shaping the industry's future.

The discussions on the impact of 5G on content delivery, sustainability in broadcasting, and the fusion of AI and media were mind-boggling. I'm eager to share these insights with our team to shape our strategies for the coming years.

The networking opportunities were, without a doubt, one of the highlights. Conversations with fellow engineers, content creators and innovators from around the globe provided a fresh perspective on common challenges and innovative solutions.

In conclusion, the IBC conference has been a game-changer for me both professionally and personally. The knowledge gained, connections made, and the sheer innovation witnessed have left an indelible mark on my approach to engineering in the broadcasting industry.



Betim Shalqini's Trade Show Report

I had extraordinary experiences from the moment I arrived in Amsterdam until the last day! I felt very privileged being selected as a bursary winner and going to IBC offered me the opportunity to discover and learn about the latest products and innovations. It allowed me to keep up to date with the latest market trends.

All those workshops, exhibitions and networking events provided me with a comprehensive overview of the industry today, as well as where it's going. IBC is at the forefront of new ideas, learning and forward-thinking. I particularly want to thank the entire SCTE team, who really made me feel at home.