

ArrayProcessing connects the congregation at Rivers Church.



Rivers Church, Johannesburg, South Africa

“Since we’ve moved to the new church quite a few people have come to me after the service and commented on the difference of experience. They use words like ‘connected’ to describe what they hear, ‘it’s as if the Pastor is stood right in front of us’, they say.”

Andrew Illgner, Head of Sound for worship music, Rivers Church

Setting the scene

Rivers Church in the Johannesburg suburb of Sandton, has recently built itself a new home and in so doing doubled its capacity for services. The new church can accommodate 3,000 congregants; the sanctuary is fan shaped, with a single balcony.

“We are busy for most of the week,” explains Head of Sound for worship music, Andrew Illgner: “On Wednesday evening we rehearse the weekend service. Across our campuses we have a membership of almost 20,000 so on Sunday there will be three services, two in the morning, one in the evening. Once a month there is the sister’s ministry for the women, another for the men, and there are volunteer nights for specific projects, plus youth conferences and the like.”

Establishing objectives

“There are plenty of demands upon the audio system,” Illgner continues. “Our pastors André and Wilma Olivier, never wanted it to be two churches, those at the front feeling fully engaged, and those at the back, a little removed.”

ArrayProcessing (AP), the software tool for optimizing d&b line arrays was not yet available when the church first contacted d&b Distributor, Stage Audio Works; Project Manager Nathan Ihlenfeldt: “ArrayProcessing had the potential to directly address that sense of engagement which the Oliviers so clearly desired.

“Initially the additional amplifier channels required to implement ArrayProcessing made the cost prohibitive; then d&b’s new 30D install amps came along. What was once financially out of reach suddenly became entirely possible.”

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Nathan Ihlenfeldt, Project Manager, Stage Audio Works

Illgner: "When Nathan presented the concept of ArrayProcessing to us it was out of our budget, but the attraction was immediate; a means to ensure all seats throughout the church had the same experience as those in the front rows, no matter what the configuration.

"When the new installation amplifiers became available we accepted Stage Audio Works' generous offer to fly to Mannheim in Germany and experience ArrayProcessing first hand at the special launch event presented by d&b. At the demonstration we directly experienced the massive difference - it's like being in the near field wherever you are."

The solution

"That's exactly what has now been achieved within the church," Illgner continues, "front to back; when I'm mixing from a position around the middle of the floor area I know that everyone throughout the auditorium can hear what I'm hearing; they all have that same experience.



"That illustrates what a great job Stage Audio Works does; other suppliers can often just sell you a product and then walk away. We have multiple venues in South Africa and find with Stage Audio Works' approach it's not just product led, they bring their experience and knowledge to aid us in achieving a full solution. The support is unbelievable.

"A big thing for us is to provide the best experience. What we do is quite different from many other churches, and the flexible and continuing support from Stage Audio Works is a big contribution to that.

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"It's in how we address our audience where the benefits of AP have proved such a discernible difference. So in that sense ArrayProcessing has delivered exactly what we were all looking for."

➤ **System: 8S, E12-D, J-INFRA, V8, V12, V-SUB, 30D and D80**