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MERIDIAN REINFORCES COMMITMENT TO CUSTOM INSTALLATION CHANNEL

Legendary brand delivers new products, technologies, and services custom installation professionals can use to differentiate and enhance their offering

OCTOBER 2016—[Meridian](#) reinforced its commitment to the North American custom installation channel during this year's CEDIA, which took place last month in Dallas, Texas. Showing a variety of new products, enhancements, and technologies designed with the custom installer in mind, Meridian also announced exciting new strategic partnerships that will benefit both integrators and their customers. From the company's new two channel and multi-channel amplifiers and zone control options to the recently launched Meridian Design & Specification Service and DSP architectural loudspeakers, as well as Barco, QNAP, Cinema Acoustic Treatment Systems (C-ATS), and Display Technology partnerships, Meridian's Hi-Res oriented custom install offering is drawing dealers and their clients to the brand like never before.

New Meridian Products Integrate Seamlessly, Deliver Powerful Options

The **new Meridian 258** is a dedicated rack-mount Eight-Channel Power Amplifier. Unveiled at CEDIA, this powerful, high performance cold-running Class D amplifier is suitable for a wide range of custom applications and delivers >100W per channel into 4 Ohms / >70W per channel into 8 Ohms.

"Likely no other audio company exhibiting at CEDIA is as well known for digital audio as Meridian is. The company pioneered and was built-on the idea of maintaining a digital signal path; keeping the signal in the digital domain from source to speaker and at every step in between," says John Sciacca, integrator, influencer, and writer for Sound & Vision magazine. "To accommodate the needs of custom installers and systems integrators, Meridian has enhanced and opened-up its product line to easily integrate with other products and is releasing new CI-centric products like the 258 eight-channel power amplifier that will allow people to enjoy Meridian's terrific sound quality with any speaker of their choice." [\[Watch this video to learn more\]](#)

Also introduced at CEDIA, the **new Meridian 857** Reference Two-Channel Power Amplifier delivering 500W per channel into 4 Ohms. This Hi-Res audio amplifier, bridgeable to 1.5KW, is available as a dedicated rack-mount variant and incorporates a totally new design based upon extensive research. Tremendously powerful with an incredibly low noise floor, the Meridian 857 represents a step change in amplifier design. Both the 258 and 857 are available to order now. A more detailed announcement with full product specifications will soon be released.

Meridian also introduced the **new 218 Zone Controller** at the show. Combining both digital and analog outputs, the MQA-enabled and Sooloos-compatible Meridian 218 is ideal for distributed audio applications, in fact anywhere single or multiple zones are desired, or simply as a standalone DAC. With IP and IR control, and easy integration with 3rd Party control systems, this versatile 1U-high product can be rack, shelf, VESA or wall mounted. It is anticipated the 218 will be available by the end of 2016, when a more detailed announcement with full product specifications will be released.

Meridian Design & Specification Service Goes the Extra Mile for Custom Installers

As part of its comprehensive custom install focus and offering, Meridian again showcased the benefits and ease of use of its complimentary [Meridian Design & Specification Service](#). This time-saving service reduces cost and overhead for dealers working on whole-home, home theater, and marine projects by simplifying the design process and giving custom installers CAD drawings, including speaker and room elevations based on room dimensions, and more. In fact, the Meridian Design & Specification Service offers dealers a complete picture of how the proposed room will sound in terms of audio performance, going beyond standard drawings to include things like SPL, acoustics, wiring, speaker positions, and much more. It also illustrates how Meridian components can interface with other audio and video distribution systems, as well as third-party control systems. The Meridian Design & Specification Service makes it easy to integrate both analog and digital sources with Meridian DSP loudspeakers and electronics.

“Meridian’s new product offerings illustrate their commitment to the CI channel. Their Design and Specification service help us engineer high-resolution, multi-room audio systems, which guarantee we deliver the best possible experience for our luxury clientele,” says EJ Feulner, Managing Director of AHT Global. “Most importantly, Meridian’s high performance offering and sound quality mesh perfectly with our AHT Global’s corporate DNA.”

Strategic CI Partnerships

Finally, Meridian announced key partnerships and alliances ahead of the show and promoted the benefits during dealer and media conversations during the event. Meridian and Barco entered into a new partnership that enables dealers to specify Barco projectors into Meridian projects. Building upon each brand’s distinguished legacy to create the highest quality home cinema and media room experience, dealers will have access to Media Series, Theatre Series and top of the range Cinema-at-home Series projectors, offering significant performance advantages for a wide range of viewing applications, specifications, and price points. Solutions from Barco Residential are now fully integrated into Meridian’s Design & Specification Service.

Meridian also debuted new [QNAP NAS drives](#), [Cinema Acoustic Treatment Systems or C-ATS](#) and [Display Technology screens](#) as part of strategic partnerships recently finalized, and hinted at some exciting new partnerships and technologies that may be introduced during ISE 2017 in Amsterdam. More detailed information about the new amplifiers, zone control, C-ATS and Display Technology products will soon be released.

ABOUT MERIDIAN AUDIO

Since 1977, Meridian Audio has been crafting innovative, elegant, high performance audio solutions. From its compact DSP loudspeakers with integrated amplification, to its amplifiers, DACs, and user-friendly music management platform Sooloos, Meridian delivers easy to install, high resolution audio systems for home cinemas and whole home solutions. The Meridian Audio experience is now also available in the latest models from Jaguar Land Rover, thanks to a collaborative partnership between these two leaders of British innovation and engineering. Learn more at www.meridian-audio.com and follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [Pinterest](#), and [YouTube](#).

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