

# Cabin fever...

## Taking AV to the high seas



**What started as a demand by yacht owners to have all the amenities of their home on the water, has developed into an installer's dream with marine specific products being launched to aid the development of this flourishing market segment. Craig Evans boards the SY Thalia for a glimpse at its newly refurbished cabin completed by Liquid Automation.**

From its exterior the SY Thalia looks too rugged and too traditional to suit any form of luxury – far from the perfect white luxury yachts docked in Monaco for 11 months a year. As a racing vessel that has just taken part in the Millennium Cup in Auckland it was a surprising option to completely overhaul its original design in favour of an array of truly magnificent AV equipment.

But in fact, what initially appears to be a small cabin area underneath the enormous rig of the yacht is actually a large

lounge packed with AV equipment that would grace any dream home, along with several other integrated rooms.

Marine installer Liquid Automation designed the boat's luxury interior re-build to include top equipment which could be fixed to the hull and still give the user full, seamless integration and entertainment options.

The SY Thalia features a home cinema install, owner's suite, office, three guest cabins, gym, pilothouse, cockpit theatre, AFT deck, captain's cabin and crew mess. Every inch of the yacht



The cockpit area complete with touch screen navigation is a fully automated control system



The SY Thalia



The main lounge with seating anchored to the floor

is scattered with AV equipment and controls so that anywhere in the boat the finite details of the experience can be under full control.

The 159ft yacht now has a fully integrated Crestron two-



A hidden screen in the bedroom

way RF LCD control system including eight fixed-wall mounted controls with waterproof helm control stations. This allows easy control in bumpy conditions without the worry of the equipment failing under the pressure of varying climates.

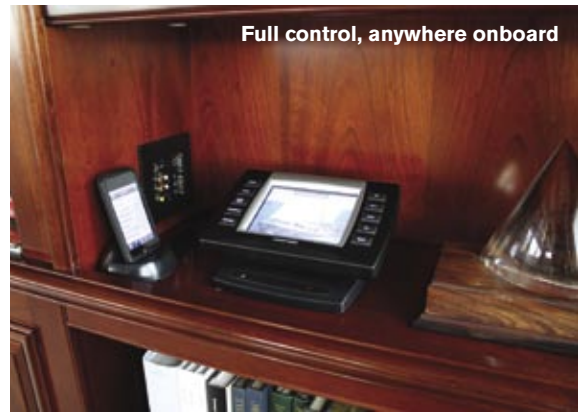
A Marantz Home Theatre system combined with Speakercraft in-ceiling Speakers and Velodyne subs are used throughout the yacht and the saloon and guest deck areas use an 8x250w Lab Gruppen power amp. Crestron came up trumps again when it came to installing a music server, with the company's 1Tb model being used with 12 separate audio zones.

A Kaleidescape high-definition 1.5 Tb video server with five video locations is fitted throughout the vessel for easy film selection from the Crestron controllers. These in turn are linked up to a 52-inch plasma screen television in the main lounge area and a variety of 17 inch monitors scattered throughout the rest of the yacht.





The Playstation 3



Full control, anywhere onboard

<< The 52-inch NEC LCD display comes with three Speakercraft MT8-Four speakers mounted around the screen. As if this is not enough, Liquid Automation installed a Playstation 3 into a specially designed mount to hold the unit in place.

All central sources for the yacht are distributed over Crestron's QuickMedia system allowing for balanced AV inputs and control over a single Cat.5 cable.

Having sources distributed over balanced cables suppresses outside interference with the signal and cuts costs on long runs of wiring, especially with VGA sources.

Designer Liquid Automation ensured that good after-sales service was added to the package, with faults in the AV

equipment automatically being reported back to the company so it can advise quickly or fix the problem remotely.

Combining luxury and technology does not stop in the cabin though as the cockpit features a high-definition 40-inch flat LCD panel designed for way-point marker creations. It acts as a centrepiece for the cockpit install displaying information from the radar, sonar, five CCTV cameras - including one on the mast - and a thermal imaging camera with emergency 'man-overboard' software. The thermal imaging camera by Carlise & Finch offers 1000/2000 feet detection for night-time sailing and all this is controlled with LCD finger-follow touch-screen technology.

After the install was completed the SY Thalia was sent back to the high seas to battle the waves in style with its crew able to enjoy luxurious settings amongst mother nature's fiercest currents.



## Stephen Goodhue, managing director, Liquid Automation

### What was the hardest part of the install?

Pulling cables through an already built yacht, also finding room for the equipment racks by building custom cupboards as well as managing the environment of the racks by adding cooling hardware.

### What problems had to be overcome?

We wanted to put the internet access into the install in a simple way so that the crew can switch onto access from a touch screen so that the satellite data bills are not excessive.

### How does marine installation differ from residential installation?

The main difference is environmental management. As the yachts move from extreme heat to extreme cold, and with crazy power fluctuations switching between shore and generators, along with multiple grounding points, it gets tricky. Also, everything has to be multi system, like multiple digital decoders for Europe and USA.

Everything in a yacht also needs to be firmly mounted, which is tricky with things like tables and certain monitors or projector screens.

### What was the advantage of using the integrating systems that you chose?

Having one remote to control everything and the system being able to email us if problems arise. It's really easy for the user to be able to watch navigation, CCTV, satellite TV, the Kaleidescape video server, DVD or Playstation3 all on one screen.



Stephen Goodhue,  
MD of Liquid Automation