Award-winning marine automation specialist
Liquid Automation is now applying its considerable technical know-how across a wider industrial spectrum and it’s something both individuals and organisations can use to benefit.

As a global specialist in automated entertainment, lighting and security systems, the company has won international awards for its sophisticated marine automation systems on board one of the largest and most technically advanced sailing yachts in the world – the Vertigo.

Vertigo super yacht

Liquid Automation has won a variety of awards for the luxury yacht Vertigo, including a Global CEDIA (Custom Electronic Design Installation Association) award for best technical design, and an Australasian AVIA (Audio Visual Industry Awards) for best application of audio visual technology in a commercial or government installation over $500,000. Formed by directors Stephan Goodhue and Bruce Cox in 2004, the company is the first Australasian business to ever win a Global CEDIA award.

Stephan Goodhue says the Vertigo project was so well recognised because of the high level of technology and the large amount of equipment installed in the yacht. “Vertigo is the biggest marine project we’ve done and it’s one of the biggest sailboats in the world,” he says.

“The way the automation was installed and the different types of technology put together was unique. We had an opportunity to do the job correctly from the start. We had the right hardware and installation techniques.”

Hi-tech automation

The project involved the design and installation of an intuitive custom-designed user interface to control on-board entertainment, CCTV, lighting, emergency and real-time navigation systems. It also included fibre optic distribution of HD video, AMX touchpanels fronting a fully integrated Crestron control system and a sound system providing a HiFi music experience, yet capable of nightclub SPL levels.

“Our vision was to give the guest on board Vertigo the ultimate Hi-Fi listening experience. The system needs to be intuitive and accessible at all times.”

Carpe diem

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Residential automation

Liquid Automation is expanding into residential and commercial automation and has been extensively involved in providing a range of systems at the Coatesville Mansion made famous by Kim Dotcom.

A Liquid Automation home system means you can push a “welcome home” button in your car as you pull into your driveway. Your gate will open and your pathway, front porch and hallway lights will come on. Your air conditioning has already heated or cooled your living areas and your favourite music starts playing throughout the house.

At bedtime, a “goodnight” button will turn everything off, while a “watch DVD” button will start up your home cinema and dim the lights when you want to watch a movie.

The company installed such a system at the Coatesville Mansion.

Liquid Automation director Stephan Goodhue has spent several years redesigning and reinstalling full automation systems and equipment for Kim Dotcom. The project was the largest residential one completed by the company to date and involved security, lighting control, audio visual, access control, CCTV, heating and water features.

Liquid Automation has completed a number of major residential projects and is looking to grow its share of the market. “Some of our projects have stemmed from clients who had existing systems that were unreliable and awkward to use. We were able to re-engineer and re-programme these systems and turn them into the showpiece they always should have been,” Stephan says.

Commercial projects

Stephan says commercial projects make up a significant part of Liquid Automation’s workload and include such projects as the Sky City Casino high-roller suites and VIP gaming rooms.

Commercial projects can involve electrical, entertainment, security, access control and environment controls. “We’ve done a whole range of commercial work, including the Sofitel in Queenstown and a big fully automated factory in Silverdale, where we controlled everything from lighting to security, access, CCTV, full biometric entry points and entertainment systems,” he says.

“We’ve done a lot of work for TVNZ including their main control room in Wellington and in their boardrooms in Auckland. We also did the lighting control systems for the new gym and learning block at Auckland Grammar School.”

Building working relationships

Liquid Automation works closely with a number of New Zealand companies, including super yacht specialist Alloy Yachts, which built the award-winning Vertigo sailing boat.

The company supplies Alloy Yachts with its audio visual, lighting control, networks, navigation distribution and automation systems. Alloy Yachts is an award-winning international leader in building luxurious super yachts.

“We have completed 11 boats and have three in progress with Alloy Yachts, starting at about 140 foot and going up,” Stephan says. “We have done one yacht for a New Zealand client, but the majority of other owners are offshore.”

New subsidiary companies

Liquid Automation has two new subsidiary businesses aimed at helping the Auckland company provide a total turnkey service.

Liquid Electrical was formed in 2012 to complement Liquid Automation, providing a range of residential and commercial electrical services, including system and lighting design, CAD drawings, switchboard supply and installation, testing and fault finding, lighting fixtures, re-wires and mains supply.

“We can offer architects and clients a one-stop shop, with everything done in-house,” Stephan says. “Liquid Electrical has already done quite a few large homes and the company is growing really well.”

Earlier in the year Liquid Automation purchased Living Systems Solar, which provides both professional and DIY solar solutions. The company offers a complete range of services from products and design through to installation.

Living Systems Solar can custom design a system and tailor a package to suit the customers’ requirements, with the company distributing solar products throughout New Zealand and the Pacific Islands.

Supplying world leading technology to the smartest integrators

Audio Video Designs congratulate Stephan, Bruce and their team at Liquid Automation in conjunction with Alloy Yachts for their recent award at CEDIA.

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