

TOP TECHNOLOGY STARS SHINE



CEPro

2018 BEST

From must-have installation tools to the latest voice-controllable products to next-generation audio and video systems, this year's CE Pro BEST (Best Electronic Systems Technologies) Awards honors 40 winners from 165 wide-ranging entries.

BY CE PRO EDITORS

IT CAN'T BE EASY for custom electronics integrators to keep pace with all of the new products that hit the market each year, in the myriad technology categories they offer to customers and even business tools solutions that help maintain tip-top operations. As always, the annual *CE Pro* BEST (Best Electronic Systems Technologies) Awards is here to assist, introducing dealers to the latest and greatest that custom industry manufacturers have to offer.

Celebrating the most noteworthy new products and technologies, *CE Pro* is pleased to announce the winners of this year's BEST Awards. The program actually covers a time frame spanning more than just 2018, with submitted products required to have been shipped or set to debut in the 12 months before or six months after the late July 2018 deadline (so July 2017 to February 2019).

That means you may have heard or even installed some of the 165 products entered into this year's awards, or if not, chances are you saw a good amount of them during September's

CEDIA Expo, during which 40 entries were honored as winners. Recipients came from a multitude of subcategories within the uber categories of business operations; control and automation; home theater/multiroom A/V; household enhancements/installation accessories; loudspeakers; most promising; object-based surround sound; peripherals and enhancements; and tools, testing and calibration.

"The BEST Awards offer an incredible glimpse into the future for the entire residential integration industry," says Jason Knott, editor-in-chief, *CE Pro*. "Some of the products and technologies that integrators now consider mainstays to their businesses made their first appearance in the market via the BEST Awards. These entries truly represent the cutting edge of technology."

All entries were judged on innovation, functionality, competitive advantages and benefits to the installer by a dozen credible industry leaders, along with the editors of *CE Pro*. Read on for brief descriptions of the winning products plus names of runners-up; for a deeper look at all of the submitted products go to cepro.com.

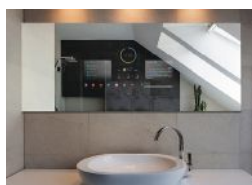
CE FEATURE 2018 CE PRO BEST AWARDS



Salamander Designs Ultra Short Throw Projector Cabinets

Salamander's UST cabinets are quality, handsome pieces of furniture uniquely designed for ultra-short-throw projectors. Originally created for Sony and Dell, these can suit all USTs. Neatly housing all cabling, components and speakers, the solution accommodates up to 120-inch screens with projectors and sits inches off the wall.

salamanderdesigns.com; MSRP: \$2,599



Séura SMART Mirror

The SMART Mirror is an innovation that introduces new digital capabilities and a connected smart home interface to bathroom vanity mirrors. The SMART Mirror offers the convenience of bringing one's calendar, email, music, social media, video streaming, news and more to the bathroom mirror.

seura.com; MSRP: \$6,999

HOUSEHOLD ENHANCEMENTS/ INSTALLATION ACCESSORIES

WINNERS

Central vac, outdoor A/V, cables, networking, cell signal boosters

GoVision GoTV

Introducing GoTV, the fully weatherproof, totally visible outdoor TV. Rain or shine, customers can watch favorite shows from under a covered



cabana or a floatie in their pool. With an IP rating 65 and 5,500 nits of brightness GoTV delivers big-screen outdoor entertainment.

jumbo.tv; MSRP: \$85,000



HiBoost Home 10K Plus

Elegant, versatile, and powerful; the HiBoost Home 10K Plus provides premium signal boosting with its easy-to-install built-in antenna, remote monitoring technology, and aesthetically pleasing design.

hiboostusa.com; MSRP: \$599



Metra Home Theater Group HDM-GA2 Gigabit Accelerator

HDM-GA2 transforms existing hard-wired passive HDMI cables to support 4K/HDR by extending bandwidth capability to 18Gbps for up to 20

meters and an expected capability of up to 9 meters for the 48Gbps format. The device mounts behind the display system and adjusts to different cables and gauges. metrahometheater.com; MSRP: N/A



Open Mesh A62 Cloud-Managed Wi-Fi Access Point

With its quad core processor, tri-radio design, and zero-touch cloud management com-

RUNNERS UP



AudioControl CM4-700

audiocontrol.com

MSRP: \$2,600



Hegel Music System AS C55 Multichannel Power Amplifier

hegel.com; MSRP: \$8,500



Kaleidescape Strato S Movie Player

kaleidescape.com; MSRP: \$6,995



Channel Vision Technology Amp-Servant

channelvision.com; MSRP: \$240



Hegel Music System AS Rost

hegel.com; MSRP: \$3,000



Lexicon by Harman RV-6 & RV-9 Immersive Surround Sound A/V Receivers

lexicon.com; MSRP: RV-6 \$3,900; RV-9 \$6300



Da-Lite Parallax 2.3

legrandav.com
MSRP: \$4,482



IOGEAR Ultra Long-Range Wireless 4K Video Extender, 60Hz

iogear.com; MSRP: \$599



Luxul AMS-1816P L2/L3 Managed Switch

luxul.com; MSRP: TBD



Digital Projection Inc. Insight Dual Laser 8K

digitalprojection.com

MSRP: \$299,995



Just Add Power 509 POE Daisy-Chain Receiver

justaddpower.com; MSRP: N/A



Luxul Epic Router Series

luxul.com; MSRP: TBD

patibility, The Open Mesh A62 Wi-Fi access point offers a professional, reliable, plug-and-play mesh networking solution in one compact, high-performance package that supports up to 150 simultaneously streaming devices. openmesh.com; **MSRP: \$225**

Peerless-AV Xtreme Outdoor Soundbar (SPK-080)



The perfect all-season solution for outdoor audio

entertainment, the Xtreme Outdoor Soundbar is easy to use and provides quality sound and power. Plus, with an IP65 rating, it can withstand extreme environments, and can also be used as a standalone product, thanks to Bluetooth compatibility. peerless-av.com; **MSRP: \$449**

LOUDSPEAKERS WINNERS

Architectural speakers over/under \$2,000/pair; freestanding speakers over/under \$2,000/pair; soundbars; loudspeaker accessories; subwoofers over/under \$1,000



Bowers & Wilkins 603

When sound is delivered with the utmost of clarity and brilliance, it turns every moment into an experience. Backed by 50 years of innovation, the new 600 Series from Bowers & Wilkins features its Continuum cone technology; decoupled double dome tweeter with a re-engineered assembly; and improved paper bass cone. bowers-wilkins.com;

MSRP: \$900 each



DALI Callisto

The Callisto line features a choice of active bookshelf or tower speakers that wirelessly connect to the DALI Sound Hub. Along with built-in Bluetooth aptX HD connectivity, the Sound Hub can also be upgraded with an optional BluOS module running premium hi-res distributed audio and music management. dali-speakers.com;

MSRP: \$4,748 to \$5,748



JBL Synthesis SCL-2 In-Wall Loudspeaker

Part of the JBL Synthesis Custom Loudspeakers range, the SCL-2 is designed with a 2.5-way, triple 8-inch driver configuration for low-frequency extension with high output capability and powerful dynamics. Designed to provide ultimate performance and the high levels of dynamics, the SCL-2 can discreetly integrate into any environment and decor.

jblsynthesis.com; **MSRP: \$6,000 each**



Savant Artison IP Speakers

Savant's high-performance Artison IP Speakers drastically reduce the complexity associated with system design and installation. These self-

powered, power-over-Ethernet, small aperture architectural loudspeakers have been engineered to work with Savant's vast lineup of IP audio products. savant.com; **MSRP: TBD**



MantelMount MM750 Pro Series Pull Down & Swivel TV Mount

mantelmount.com; **MSRP: \$899**



NAD Electronics T 777 V3

nadelectronics.com

MSRP: \$2,499



ProVideo Instruments VeCASTER

provideoinstruments.com; **MSRP: \$495**



Marantz AV8805

us.marantz.com
MSRP: \$4,499



NAD Electronics CI 720

nadelectronics.com

MSRP: \$899



ProVideo Instruments VuMATRIX

provideoinstruments.com; **MSRP: \$695**



Middle Atlantic Products High Power DC Power Distribution

middleatlantic.com; **MSRP: varies**



Nexus 21 Eclipse E-550 Residential Projector Drop-Down

tvlift.com; **MSRP: \$6,695**



Russound MBX-PRE Wi-Fi Streaming Audio Player

russound.com; **MSRP: \$399**



Midlite Corporation Multi-Direction Speaker Mount and In-Wall Power Solution for Sonos Play: 1

midlite.com; **MSRP: \$64**



OmniMount CI120FMX Extended Full Motion TV Wall Mount

omnimount.com; **MSRP: \$199**



Samsung Electronics Q9FN Smart 4K UHD TV

samsung.com; **MSRP: \$3,799**