

A STRONG INNINGS IN WICKET COMPETITION

OVER 500 MEMBERS OF THE AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND SYSTEMS INTEGRATION MARKET HAVE HAD THEIR SAY ON THIS YEAR'S CONNECTED MOST POPULAR AWARDS. ANNA HAYES TAKES A LOOK AT THIS YEAR'S RESULTS.

t's that time of year again - time to pour a drink and pore over the list of winners in this year's Most Popular Awards.

Over 500 people cast their vote this year, in almost 60 different categories and, as always, there has been some interesting movement in preferences over the past 12 months.

With a level of uncertainty still reigning last year, there was was a number of interesting results - some of those have remained as talking points this year, others have reset somewhat to prepandemic expectations and predictions. While there are a number of a fresh or returning winners this year, there is also plenty of familiarity as there are four categories recording 11 wins in a row this year, showcasing a remarkable level of dominance.

There are other impressive streaks throughout; a couple of three, four, six and sevens in a row are also scattered through the results.

Amber Technology enjoys a clean sweep of the industry awards, its third-in-a-row, while Ness also makes it three-in-a-row in the Most Popular Manufacturer category. As in other years, I will point out that these awards are decided by popular vote and are designed to recognise the brands that those in the industry choose as their go-to options. They are not reflective of market share, functionality, etc.

Finally, there is a new winner to add to the Most Influential Person hall of fame - Women In AV Australia's founder, Toni McAllister, has taken out the top award this year in what was a particularly competitive field.

Congratulations to all winners and continued success to all winners and nominees in the future.







Striving for diversity in the AV industry, this year's Most Influential Person Award goes to Toni McAllister, founder of the Women in AV Australia group.

Toni's pathway into the industry was somewhat circuitous as she started out working in film and TV as a camera operator, having completed a Bachelor of Business. After taking time off to travel the world, she found herself branching into AV on her return to Australia, a more secure and consistent career.

Over the years, Toni has worked across various sectors including starting out in education before moving into live event production where the innovation and evolution of technology has been vast.

Throughout this time, two things stuck out to Toni - the persistent skills shortages, and the lack of diversity, particularly in the area of female representation in the industry.

Toni recognised a potential opportunity to address both issues and set up the Women in AV Australia group to promote diversity, to encourage more women to look to AV as a career option and, in doing so, help address the skills shortage issue as well.

The group's motto is: 'Can't see, can't be', but Toni is working towards a day when the group no longer needs to exist because diversity will be achieved and embraced.

Most Popular Manufacturer



Ness

It's a hat-trick for the NSW-based company as it has, once again, won the Most Popular Manufacturer award.

Founded by brothers Naz and Larry Circosta in 1972, NESS began as an alarm installation company with Naz managing the technical side of the business and Larry looking after admin and sales. They were later joined by their sister Mary, brothers John and Tony and, later again, Naz's son Elian.

The company subsequently focused heavily on security systems and ended up attracting interest from other installers and clients.

Ness's product range includes all of today's security industry and home lifestyle technologies from alarm panels to lighting control



INDUSTRY AWARDS

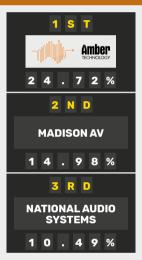
Amber Technology

Amber has made it four-in-a-row this year with a big increase in vote share. Radio Parts returns to the board this year, securing third place but there's a lot of movement otherwise as more than half of last year's listed distributors have dropped off the board. Ivory Egg returns to share sixth place with Avation (third last year); Westan, SnapOne and AV Supply Group also climb the ranks this year.

4th QualiFi - 10.04%

- 5th Canohm 9.61%
- 6th Avation, Ivory Egg- 9.17%
- 8th Westan 8.73%
- 9th SnapOne 8.30%
- = 10th Altronic Distributors,
 - AV Supply Group 6.11%

Commercial Distributors



INDUSTRY AWARDS

Amber Technology It's a hat-trick for Amber as, again, it increases its vote share but there's interesting movement below the top spot. Madison AV climbs from fifth to second while National Audio Systems features for the first time in third. Midwich returns to the board, as does Corsair and Westan but there's no space for NAS

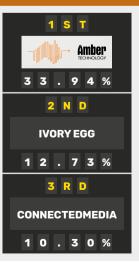
Westan but there's no space for NAS Australia (second last year) or CSD (11th). Altronics, Canohm and Ness have all increased their vote share.

4th Audio Visual Distributors -10.11% 5th Altronic Distributors - 8.99%

6th Corsair - 7.49% 7th Westan - 7.12%

- = 8th Canohm, Jands- 6.37%
- 10th Ness 5.62%

NZ Distributors



INDUSTRY AWARDS

Amber Technology

Once again, it's a clean sweep for Amber, for the third year in a row. Ivory Egg has rallied well to go from joint fifth to second this year while ConnectedMedia holds onto third place. Last year's runner-up, Avation, drops to sixth while AVD returns to the board in joint tenth with Midwich. Digital World returns to the listings, sharing seventh place. Wildash and the Mayo Group are the casualties this year.

4th AV Supply Group - 9.70% 5th Sound Group Holdings - 7.27%

- 6th Avation 6.67%
- = 7th Digital World, Pacific AV -6.06%

9th NFS - 5.45%

= 10th AVD, Midwich - 4.85%



INDUSTRY AWARDS



DIVERSITY KEY TO TONI'S MISSION

SETTING UP AN ORGANISATION IN THE HOPE THAT IT WON'T BE NEEDED IN THE FUTURE IS A UNIQUE SITUATION, BUT IT'S EXACTLY WHAT THIS YEAR'S MOST INFLUENTIAL PERSON AWARD WINNER, TONI MCALLISTER, HAS DONE IN ORDER TO PROMOTE DIVERSITY IN THE AV INDUSTRY.

O ne of the biggest challenges facing the AV industry is that of staff shortages but, as the winner of this year's Most Influential Person Award, Women in AV Australia's founder Toni McAllister, says, it's not a new issue.

Speaking to *Connected*, Toni was delighted to be receiving the award: "Thank you to everyone who voted, I really appreciate it and I think it goes some way to saying that what I'm doing with the Women in AV Australia group is appreciated and recognised."

By her own admission, Toni's route into the AV industry was far from planned out.

"I think a lot of people fall into AV from different avenues. For me, my background was initially in film and television, where I cultivated a love of seeing a vision come to life."

Toni majored in film and television as part of, unusually, a Bachelor of Business and subsequently worked as a freelance camera operator before travelling overseas for a few years.

"During that period, technology changed a lot and when I came back to Australia, not only had my networks and connections moved around, but the technology had changed so much as well. So, I needed to look for a way to shift, perhaps sidewore, into a correct

perhaps sideways, into a career that would also be potentially more secure and consistent."

Toni has worked across various sectors including starting out in education before moving primarily into live event production where the innovation and evolution of technology has been stark.

"I started out setting up slide projectors and now we've moved onto LED screens and laser projectors. But, for me, I'm less concerned by what each



black box is and more interested in what they can achieve. It's really about what the client wants to achieve with an event and then putting the technology together in order to achieve that."

Toni enjoys her role as AV Sales Manager at ICC Sydney, where she has the opportunity to work directly with event organisers, ensuring the AV is delivering on the event's objective, rather than leading with tech for tech's sake.

JOBS WITHOUT APPLICANTS

In recent times, staff shortages have been a big problem everywhere. But, as Toni pointed out, this isn't really a new issue in the AV industry.

"It's definitely the big issue that we face, going forward. And if we're not addressing that from school-leaving age up, I think we've lost the battle from the outset. There needs to be more awareness of AV as a career opportunity. And that means, targeting schools and career expos to raise awareness of courses that exist, how you get into them but also what career opportunities are available within the industry."

Toni continues to be impressed with organisations offering graduate programs

and traineeships for those interested in getting their foot in the door, saying it helps to connect the theory to the practical.

But the rate of entry into the industry doesn't yet tally with the demand for staff.

Toni does feel that there are opportunities, going forward, for the industry and how it addresses the skills shortage, pointing out that AV is having something of a moment off the back of the years of pandemic restrictions.



Women in AV Australia founder Toni McAllister is this year's Most Influential Person Award.

From her own experience, events that would have been cancelled managed to go ahead, largely due to the AV industry's ability to pivot to an online offering.

"I think that now is the opportunity to really harness and promote that versatility, getting the message out there about the possibilities within AV, and that convergence between live and digital, in order to attract a wider range of people to join the industry."

STRIVING FOR DIVERSITY

It was that very discussion around skill shortages that prompted Toni on a different journey, one that would not only work to bring more people into the industry, but would also push to promote diversity within it.

"I had spent many years speaking within the industry about skill shortages and the different things we could do to try to attract more people. But looking around, it was always the case that there was only one or two women in the room."

Toni felt that there was an opportunity in that anomaly to address the skills shortage but also to highlight the need to have women in the room and have their voices heard. And although there were plenty who agreed, there was little action.

"I looked around and I thought, you know what, if you want someone to make change happen, sometimes that someone has to be you. And that's where Women in AV Australia began."

Toni approached a number of AV companies and departments within her network, arranging several discussions where there was consultation over what the group wanted to achieve and how it would operate. Surveys were sent to a number of companies and employees to get a picture of what issues were arising.

The feedback, perhaps a little unexpectedly, was largely positive.

"The AV industry, on the whole, is a very open and welcoming industry to work in. There's always going to be those rare cases where there are issues but generally, people find the industry a positive one to work in."

Toni feels that it isn't the case that companies aren't employing women, it's that there aren't many women applying. In live events, she says there is interest in event management without much consideration of a career in the production side of that world.

"I think there are maybe some assumptions that you need to have a lot of technical knowledge to start with but, as we all know, in the AV industry so much of what we do is taught on the job."

Research and consultation completed, and with a better understanding of the issues and challenges, Toni launched the Women in AV Australia group.

"It got to the point where I was like: 'Ok, enough talk. Let's put this out there and see what comes of it, see how people want to get involved and how it evolves'."

Unfortunately, like so many things, the pandemic put a stop to the gallop that Women in AV Australia had started out on, curtailing the opportunities for more in-person engagement.

Instead, the focus has turned towards promotion of women working in AV – profiling their career journey online, and encouraging people to host their own events under the Women in AV Australia banner, to make the forum a truly collaborative, collective entity, working for the betterment of the industry.

Unlike other organisations that strive for longevity, Toni hopes one day that there is no need for the group.

"It would be great not to need a body that represents women, but we do because we have a serious shortage of female representation in the industry.

"Our motto is 'you can't be what you can't see' so the goal is to raise awareness of women working in AV in order to encourage more women to join the industry. And, importantly, to ensure that the industry is an inclusive environment for when they do get there. We want to bring women together, to inspire them, to connect them and empower them."

PR01439 **24W BLUETOOTH AUDIO AMP** CLASS-D WITH HI-RES DAC

Compact but surprisingly powerful!

This 24W Class-D amplifier can connect multiple amplifiers, is an ideal partner to modern, slim TVs and suits loads of different applications in both domestic & commercial spaces. Simply add your speakers and you are good to go!

- Output power: 24W RMS per ch Audio Inputs: Bluetooth Receiver 3.5mm Audio Line-In & Line-Out Toslink (Optical)
- Bluetooth V4.2 compliant with aptX
- Bluetooth Range: up to 20m
- Comes with stand for vertical orientation



pro2.com.au 📉

AUDIO

AUDIO



Freestanding Loudspeakers



Bowers & Wilkins has made it sixin-a-row this year, but with just a whisker to spare over JBL which holds its position from last year. The gap between these two has dropped spectacularly, from 13% to just 0.42%. James Loudspeaker is a new entrant on the leaderboard this year, sharing seventh place with Klipsch, last year's joint sixth. Australian Monitor jumps one place from last year's strong entry to the board. The remaining brands simply shuffle around the board, most notably Krix which drops from last year's third place to joint fifth.

AUDIO

4th Dali - 12.03% = 5th Krix, Yamaha - 10.37% = 7th James Loudspeaker, Klipsch - 8.71%

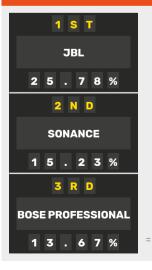
Architectural loudspeakers (Residential)



There's no change in the top two in this category as Sonance asserts its dominance and chalks down win number 11 in a row. JBL enters the leaderboard in third place with a healthy share of the votes. pushing last year's third-placed SpeakerCraft off the leaderboard. Krix maintains its spot in the top six (down one place on last year) but there's no room for Stealth Acoustics or Triad, last year's fifth and sixth-placed, as James Loudspeaker slips into sixth place, and Bose returns to the top six after surprisingly dropping off it last year.

4th Bose - 10.31% 5th Krix - 8.78% 6th James Loudspeaker - 8.40%

Outdoor loudspeakers

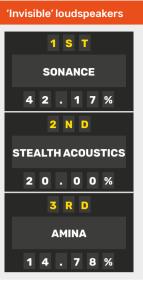


AUDIO

AUDIO

JBL, which hasn't placed since 2018, has come from nowhere to shove a previously untouchable Sonance into second place, making them only the second ever winner of this category since the awards began. Bose Professional climbs from sixth place to third, pushing last year's second and third-placed Bowers & Wilkins and Australian Monitor, respectively, out of the top three. There's no room for last year's fifth-placed Krix as a trio of new (James Loudspeaker) and returning brands (Origin Acoustics, Yamaha) share sixth place.

4th Bowers & Wilkins - 13.28% 5th Australian Monitor - 12.11% = 6th James Loudspeaker, Origin Acoustics, Yamaha- 7.81%



This result will come as a surprise to (probably) absolutely nobody as Sonance further solidifies its hold on the invisible category - this year marks the company's tenth straight win, and it's a daunting prospect trying to catch it as it's also increased its share of the votes by almost 5%. Last year's runnerup SpeakerCraft drops to second, leaving room for Stealth Acoustics to climb one place. Amina also climbs one spot to finish in third. Last year's fifth placed Nakamytone drops off the board to make way for newcomer. Cerasonar.

4th SpeakerCraft - 13.91%

- 5th Extron 8.26%
- 6th Cerasonar 4.78%

Architectural loudspeaker (Commercial)

1 S T	
SONANCE	
23.74%	
2 N D	
JBL	
17.90%	
3 R D	
BOSE PROFESSIONAL	
17.12%	

Sonance has put back-to-back wins together but the gap between it and JBL has narrowed in the last 12 months. Bose Professional, the 2020 category winner, has climbed one place to third. Krix drops from third to joint fifth with James Loudspeaker, while Origin Acoustics holds onto its seventhplace position. Yamaha returns to the top six after failing to make the cut last year. SpeakerCraft drops off the board after sharing fourth place last year, and the earth didn't quite move for Earthquake Sound this year - it's dropped out of the top six.

4th	Yamaha - 10.51%
= 5th	James Loudspeaker,
	Krix - <mark>8.17%</mark>
7th	Origin Acoustics - 7.399

Acoustic treatments



Primacoustics comfortably makes it four-in-a-row here, having increased its vote share to put a bit more daylight between it and Sound Acoustics. Artnovion holds onto its third-place position and the rest of the board looks mostly similar to last vear's result. Vicoustic holds firm in fourth place while Cinema Works drops one place from joint fifth last year. Wave Panels holds onto its fifth-place position while last year's returning entrant, Auralex, drops off the board. Interestingly, there's little between third, fourth and fifth in vote share.

4th Vicoustic- 11.76% 5th Wave Panels - 9.63% 6th Cinema Works - 8.56%

AUDIO

AUDIO

AUDIO



Subwoofers



AUDIO

AUDIO

AUDIO

JBL, which hasn't placed in this category since 2019, has claimed its second top spot in a competitive category. Of last year's top three, only Sonance remains, climbing into second place. Last year's winner Bowers & Wilkins has dropped to fourth while Krix (second last year) shares fifth place. Australian Monitor continues its progress after entering the leaderboard last year. Velodyne returns to the board for the first time since 2017. DALI is a new entrant on the board. Sunfire and Earthquake Sound have failed to make the cut this year.

4th Bowers & Wilkins - 10.00% = 5th Krix, Velodyne, Yamaha - 9.60% 8th DALI - 9.20%

It's business-as-usual in this

category as Yamaha chalks up its

closing though, with just under 3%

Denon. Marantz holds onto its third-

separating it and second-placed

place position quite comfortably.

lower half of the board as Anthem

climbs two spots to fourth, pushing

Integra down to fifth by a couple of

votes. There's no room for Pioneer

place is shared by Onkyo (returning after last year's absence) and

(fifth last year) this year as sixth

newcomer ARCAM.

4th Anthem - 16.29%

5th Integra - 14.48%

= 6th ARCAM, Onkyo- 7.24%

As a relatively new cateogry

There's some movement in the

seventh win in a row. The gap is



Speaker cabling/Interconnects

year, Audioquest has dropped dramatically in the rankings, its place taken by last year's thirdplaced Kordz. Blustream holds its second place position but newcomer Ice Cable Systems has debuted in third, with just a vote or two between it and last year's winner. Australian Monitor has dropped one place on last year while Belden has returned to the top six after an absence last year. Last year's fifth and sixth-placed Canare and SignalMax have dropped off the board this year.

After winning five-in-a-row last

4th Audioquest - 13.22% 5th Australian Monitor - 11.45%

6th Belden - 10.57%

Preamplifiers



The top three is unchanged here -Yamaha has made it five-in-a-row in the category and Marantz and Integra hold their respective places from last year. NAD and Anthem effectively switch places on last vear's standings and Trinnov is a new entrant in fifth - held last year by Pioneer which has dropped out of the top six this year. Interestingly the gap between Marantz and Integra has tightened considerably - last year had Marantz almost 9% ahead but this year has dropped to just under 2%. NAD is also in the same ballpark of vote share.

4th NAD - 12.75% 5th Trinnov - 9.31% 6th Anthem - 8.82%

Microphones



There's little surprise in this category as Shure holds onto its top spot. There's quite a bit movement from there down though as last year's runner up JTS Professional drops down to fifth, leaving space for Sennheiser to climb two places to second. And there's pretty stiff competition at the top as Sennheiser sits just 6% behind the winner. AKG drops three places to sixth, switching with Rode who ride into third place. DPA returns to the top six after a year's absence, pushing out Chiayo, which took fifth place last year.

4th DPA Microphones - 12.73% 5th JTS Professional - 12.27% 6th AKG - 11.82%

1 S T YAMAHA 3 0 . 7 7 % 2 N D DENON 2 8 . 0 5 % 3 R D MARANTZ 1 9 . 9 1 %

AV Receivers

Power Amplifier

1 S T YAMAHA 2 2 . 4 8 % 2 N D AUSTRALIAN MONITOR 1 7 . 8 9 % 3 R D SONANCE 1 6 . 0 6 %

(debuting last year) this one has a considerable amount of movement outside of the top spot which Yamaha has retained quite comfortably. Last year's runner-up Marantz has dropped to fourth, while third-placed Anthem also drops two spots to fifth. Sonance is a new entrant on the board, taking third place, as is JBL in sixth. There's a number of casualties though as Rotel (fourth last year), Cambridge Audio and NAD (joint

fifth) and Parasound (sixth) all drop

4th Marantz - 15.14% 5th Anthem - 14.22% 6th JBL - 10.55%

out of the top six.

AUDIO

VIDEO

VIDEO



Mixer

AUDIO

AUDIO



Australian Monitor has gone backto-back in this award, while Yamaha has fallen off the leaderboard. There's some interesting movement around the board here; Redback returns to the board for the first time since 2019 and there's just a bare 1% between it and the winner. Allen & Heath climbs one spot to third, as does Solid State Logic. Denon Pro, second last year, has to make do with fifth place this year. RTI also sees itself relegated out of the top six, replaced by newcomers ClearOne and Roland who share

4th Solid State Logic - 11.96% 5th Denon Pro - 10.53% = 6th ClearOne, Roland- 9,57%

There has been minimal change

sixth place.



Blustream has made it four-ina-row and has a commanding share of the votes. There are some interesting movements from there down the board though as last year's third-placed AVPro Edge climbs one spot to second. Extron is back in the mix. after its absence in last year's standings. Last year's runner-up, Kramer AV, can only manage a sixth place finish this year, while Black Magic Design goes up one spot to fourth. Pro2 has fallen off the board from last year but Gefen, absent since 2019, reenters the top six in fifth place.

4th Black Magic Design - 9.84% 5th Gefen - 8.74% 6th Kramer AV - 8,20%

Flat panel displays

1 S T
SAMSUNG
34.17%
2 N D
SONY
30.42%
3 R D
LG
24.58%

Samsung has made it 11 wins-ina-row but with less of a cushion than previous years as Sony holds firm in second and LG retains third place. This catergory has had the same top three since since 2017 and their vote share shows a clear gulf between them and the second half of the board. Newline is a new entrant this year, commanding a respectable vote share and taking fourth place. Panasonic has dropped one position while both Bang & Olufsen and Hisense fail to make the board. Philips returns after last year's absence.

4th Newline - 11.67% 5th Panasonic - 9.17%

6th Philips - 7.08%

Projection screen



Once again, the top two are playing switcheroo as Screen Technics leapfrogs Grandview to reclaim the top spot. And there's little change throughout the rest of the board with just one different name to the 2021 line-up. Last vear's third-placed Da-Lite drops to sixth while LP Morgan re-enters the leaderboard after failing to make the cut last year. Screen Innovations goes two places better this year while Stewart Filmscreen holds its fifth-place position. Elite Screens, fourth last year, slips down the board this year.

4th Screen Innovations - 13.95% 5th Stewart Filmscreen - 10.70% 6th Da-lite - 8.84%

PA system

1 S T AUSTRALIAN MONITOR 26.24% 2 N D **УАМАНА** 17.82% 3 R D **BOSE PROFESSIONAL** 16.34%

in this category with the top two retaining their positions, although Yamaha has closed the gap on Australian Monitor which enjoyed a 15% lead in last year's contest. Bose Professional and JBL essentially swap places on last year's result, with just 0.5% between them. In fact, there's little between any of the second to fifth-placed brands, suggesting more movement in the future. OSC holds firm in fifth place while Chiayo sneaks onto the board in sixth, pushing Renkus Heinz out of its 2021 position.

4th JBL - 15.84% 5th OSC - 14.36% 6th Chiayo - 11.39%

Home theatre projector

1 S T EPSON 29.27% 2 N D SONY 27.64% 3 R D ΟΡΤΟΜΑ 21.14%

VIDEO

After breaking Epson's stranglehold on this category last year, Sony has slipped one spot, letting Epson swoop in to reclaim its crown. Much like last year, there's very little between the two main contenders. Optoma holds onto third place while BenQ and Barco merely switch places on last year's standings. Panasonic makes it back onto the board for the first time since 2019 while Digital Projection is absent from the board for the first time since entering the category. Last year's joint sixth-placed JVC also fails to make the cut.

4th Barco - 15.45% 5th BenQ - 11.79% 6th Panasonic - 9.35%



Laser Display Solutions

Designed for Exceptional Performance

Epson large venue display solutions take image quality to new levels with game-changing laser light sources, flexible installation options and outstanding resolutions. Create powerful images with outstanding reliability and minimal maintenance that are ideal for large auditoriums and staging & rental applications.

For more information visit

www.epson.com.au/LaserProjectors





VIDEO

VIDEO

VIDEO



Motorised lifters



VIDEO

There's an element of music chairs to this category as all six brands are return entrants from the last two years. Last year's winner, Sanus, can only manage fourth place this year as Future Automation jumps to first place. Ultralift retains its second-place position while Grandview does the same in third. Screen Technics and Nexus21 hold onto their fifth and sixth-place positions. It's a category that, for all of the familiarity in the top six, has seen a spread in terms of winners in each of the last four years, there has been a different winner.

4th Sanus - 16.51% 5th Screen Technics - 16.06% 6th Nexus21 - 9.17%



Sanus has secured bragging rights for a second year running, holding off last year's runner up, Vogel's, by a comfortable margin. One for All drops one place, allowing Chief to step up into third place, but competition is tight in the mid-range of the board with just a handful of votes between third, fourth and fifth, EZYmount also goes one place better than last year's result and Future Automation is a new entrant on the board, taking sixth place with a respectable 10% vote share. Ultralift fails to make the cut this year.

4th One for All - 14.35%

5th EZYmount - 12.66%

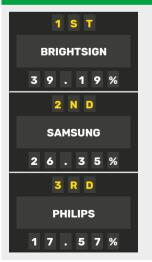
6th Future Automation - 10.55%

Video processors 1 S T BLUSTREAM 2 2 . 1 2 % 2 N D HDANYWHERE 1 7 . 7 0 % 3 R D EXTRON 1 5 . 4 9 %

Blustream makes it three-in-arow in this category but there's a lot of movement up and down in the remainder of the board. Last year's runner-up, Wyrestorm, doesn't make the cut this year while Extron re-enters the listings after falling down the ranks last year. HDAnywhere climbs one position to second place. Kramer is another returning entrant and RTI is new to the mix, taking fifth place. AVPro Edge also retains its presence on the board. Control4, Lumagen, Crestron and Nvidia all fall off the leaderboard this year.

4th Kramer AV - 13.27% 5th RTI - 10.18% 6th AVPro Edge - 9.73%

Digital signage CMS

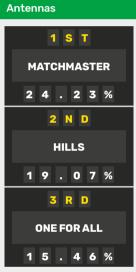


VIDEO

VIDEO

After debuting last year, BrightSign has proved that lightning can strike twice by claiming back-to-back wins, and increasing its lead over past winner Samsung. Philips holds onto its position from last year while Panasonic climbs one position and is just a vote or two away from Philips. Extron returns to the top six after missing out last year. Exterity is another returning entrant, finding its way back onto the board after its absence last year. Barco and Omma Sign, both new entrants last year, have been pushed out of the listings.

4th Panasonic - 16.22% 5th Extron - 8.11% 6th Exterity - 4.73%



There's little change in this category as the top two hold onto their respective positions, Matchmaster going back-toback on last year's win. Hills has increased its share of the vote however, halving the gap between the top two. One for All climbs to take third place, pushing last year's joint third-placed Kingray and SignalMAX down the board. Ubiquiti makes the biggest gain, climbing from seventh to fourth. Clipsal by Schneider Electric is a new entrant, sharing sixth place. Topline Aerials misses out this year.

4th	Ubiquiti - 12.37%
ōth	Kingray - 10.31%
5th	Clipsal by Schneider Electric,

= 6

SignalMAX - 9.28%

Digital signage player

1 S T
BRIGHTSIGN
30.63%
2 N D
SAMSUNG
26.25%
3 R D
SONY
14.38%

The top three remain unchanged here as BrightSign makes it six-in-a-row, but Samsung has further eaten into the percentage difference. Sony holds firm in third place. The second half of the board is more interesting as there has been some movement with Minix the only familiar name from last year. Barco, fourth last year, and ATEN, a new entrant in 2021, have both dropped off the leaderboard, replaced instaed by Pro2, returning to the top six for the first time since 2018, and Extron and Gefen, both

4th Minix - 10.00% 5th Pro2 - 7.50% = 6th Extron, Gefen - 6.25%

back after missing out last year.

VIDEO

CONTROL

CONTROL

Connected MOST POPULAR AWARDS 2022

Short throw projectors



Video scaler

VIDEO

VIDEO

It seems there's just no catching Epson as it snaps yet another win in this category, increasing its share of the vote as it does. Optoma is consistently solid in second place, although it must feel like a perpetual bridesmaid. Sony has relinquished its third-place position, making way for Barco to jump up from fifth - there little separating the two though, just a bare 1%. BenQ drops one spot while NEC is back on the board for the first time since 2018. Last year's sixth-placed debutant Vivitek fails to make the cut this year.

4th Sony - 15.17% 5th BenQ - 11.37% 6th NEC - 7.58%



Last year, this category saw the complete drop-off of 2020 winner. Extron, and it hasn't returned to the board this year. Blustream retains its first place position but there's some shuffling thereafter. Last year's runner-up, Wyrestorm, has increased its vote share but dropped to fifth place, letting HDAnywhere climb one spot. AVPro Edge also betters its position, going from joint fifth to third place. Crestron and RTI are the other survivors from last year's listings, but there's no space for AV Gear or Control4 who slip down the board.

4th Crestron - 15.77% 5th Wyrestorm - 12.61% 6th RTI - 11.71%

Universal remote control



The top three reads as a 'who's who' of who has won this category in recent years, and there's little between any of the top four. RTI jumps from fourth place and pushes Control4 down to second. reclaiming the top spot for the first time since 2016. Logitech, the 2019 winner and last year's runner-up drops to third. One for All relinquishes its third place position from last year while Crestron and Savant hold firm in fifth and sixth place. The only casualty is ELAN (joint fourth in 2021) which has failed to make the cut.

4th One For All - 18.83% 5th Crestron - 12.11%

6th Savant - 8.07%

Whole-house control system



Control4 makes its seven-in-a-row. commanding a guarter of all votes cast. Meanwhile, RTI and Crestron trade places on last year's results with RTI more than doubling its vote percentage. Savant and Elan are the other familiar names here, holding fourth and fifth place respectively. Kramer AV, which shared fouth place last year, fails to make the cut this year; there's no place for KNX (sixth last year) either as it also drops out of the top spots. New entrant Kasta secures 8% of the vote and steals in to take the final spot on the board.

4th Savant - 10.29% 5th Elan - 9.05% 6th Kasta - 8.23%

1 S T BLUSTREAM 2 8 . 8 5 % 2 N D HDANYWHERE 2 0 . 6 7 % 3 R D AVPRO EDGE 1 4 . 4 2 %

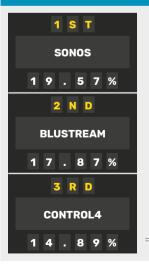
its top spot. Extron, which placed second last year, has dropped to fourth place but retained the same vote share as 2021. HDAnywhere increases its vote share by 9% and climbs one spot to second place, while AVPro Edge finds its way back into the listings after dropping out last year. AV Gear goes up one place and Barco is a new entrant in the top six. Pro2, which came fifth last year, has failed to make the cut, as has Crestron, which took fourth place last year.

Blustream lands another three-in-

a-row here as it comfortably retains

4th Extron - 13.46% 5th AV Gear - 12.02% 6th Barco - 7.21%

Multi-room AV distribution



CONTROL

After two years in second place. Sonos has returned to the top spot. Blustream has thundered back into the mix, after an absence last year, claiming second place and nudging last year's winner. Control4, to third place. There are a few noticeable drop-outs: last year's third-placed Sonance doesn't feature this year, while Savant and Elan also fail to make the top six. New entrant HDAnywhere is biting at Control4's heels while RTI returns to the board after a two-year absence. Crestron is also back, sharing sixth place with Australian Monitor.

4th HDAnywhere - 14.47% 5th RTI - 13.62% = 6th Australian Monitor, Crestron - 11.06%

CONTROL



Lighting control



CONTROL

There's quite a bit of interesting movement in this category as last year's winner Control4 drops out of favour. Philips Dynalite has climbed from fourth place to claim the top spot with, interestingly, just a 2% increase on last year's vote share. RTI is a new entrant in second. while KNX climbs from fifth to third. Clipsal drops from second place last year to fourth while Crestron and former hattrick winner Lutron dropping off the board completely. DALI returns to the board for the first time since 2017, sharing sixth place with new entrant Kasta.

4th Clipsal by Schneider Electric -13.96% 5th Control4 - 13.06%

CONTROL

6th DALI, Kasta - 11,71%



1 S T ABB 1 9 . 5 4 % 2 N D KNX 1 8 . 3 9 % 3 R D RTI 1 5 . 5 2 %

There's a change at the top as last year's winner, Thor, slips down the rankings. ABB finished in eighth place last year but has enjoyed an 11% gain to take the top spot. KNX has also climbed the ranks into second, with little between it and ABB, RTI has also increased its share and slots into third place pushing SurgeX down one spot. Clipsal is also pushed down three places. There's a couple of big casualties too. Control4 which was second last year, has failed to make the listings; so too has Crestron which was joint sixth in 2021.

4th SurgeX - 14.94% 5th Thor - 14.37% 6th Clipsal by Schneider Electric -13.22%

Matrix switcher



INFRASTRUCTURE

After dropping off the board last year, Extron has seen a surge in voting to land it in the top spot, pushing last year's joint winners Blustream and Wyrestorm to third and fifth respectively. HDAnywhere climbs from fourth place to second, increasing its vote share by 10% the gap between it and Blustream is tight with just one or two votes making the difference. RTI is a new entrant this year, commanding a respectable 13.27% of the vote, while AVPro Edge returns to the board after failing to make the cut last year.

4th RTI - 13.27% 5th WyreStorm - 12.39% 6th AVPro Edge - 10.18%



There is almost no change in this category, save for the increasing gap between Somfy and the rest of the chasing pack. The winner makes it back-to-back wins and more than doubles its lead over Lutron Crestron's vote remains solid for third place while Screen Technics and Luxaflex share fourth place again this year. Qmotion takes sixth place; again, the same as last year. The only change in the running order is the absence of last year's joint seventh-placed ABB and Fibaro. They make way for new entrant Silent Gliss.

- = 4th Screen Technics,
- Luxaflex 10.06% 6th Omotion - 8.28%
- 7th Silent Gliss 7.10%
 - 311 Sherr Gliss 7.107

HDMI cabling

1 S T
KORDZ
24.89%
2 N D
HDANYWHERE
14.77%
3 R D
BLUSTREAM
13.08%

As records go, Kordz is pretty iconic in this space - no other company has won it since the beginning of these awards. There is other movement though - HDAnywhere debuts in second place while Blustream holds firm to its thirdplace position. Last year's runnerup, AudioQuest, has dropped down to fifth with Wyrestorm just ahead of it, maintaining its fourth-place position from last year. Kramer AV has dropped one place on its 2021 listing. There's no room for last

INFRASTRUCTURE

year's sixth-placed Pro2 however and it drops further down the list.

4th Wyrestorm - 12.24% 5th AudioQuest - 11.39% 6th Kramer AV - 10.13%

HDBaseT extender kit



INFRASTRUCTURE

Blustream makes it seven-in-arow in this category, increasing its vote share by nearly 10% to give it a commanding lead. Last year's runner-up, Wyrestorm, drops down the rankings, letting HDAnywhere climb one space to take second place. AVPro Edge goes three better than its 2021 standing to complete the top three. Crestron and RTI both return to the board after dropping down the listings last year. But there's no space for either AV Gear or Control4 who returned to take fourth and fifth position respectively last year.

4th Wyrestorm - 12.78% 5th Crestron - 12.33% 6th RTI - 11.89%



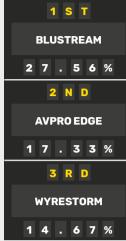
Next Generation Design 8K Performance **Re-imagined**



www.kordz.com.au

MOST POPULAR AWARDS 2022

AV over IP



INFRASTRUCTURE

Continuing a strong showing in this year's awards, Blustream has secured back-to-back awards in this category, as well as putting some daylight between it and its nearest challengers. AVPro Edge makes the board for the first time. slotting comfortably into second place while Wyrestorm drops down one place to third. RTI and Crestron essentially swap places on last year's result while Just Add Power, winner of this award in 2020, drops from third to sixth. Wolfvision, a fresh name on the listings last year, has failed to make the cut this year.

4th RTI - 13.33% 5th Crestron - 10.22% 6th Just Add Power - 9.78%

After a triumphant debut last year.

Snap One has hit stiff competition

this year and relinquished its top

spot to Sanus, which came third

in second place while Australian

last year. Middle Atlantic holds firm

Monitor goes one better, increasing its vote slightly and stepping into

third. Future Automation and B&R

Enclosures both remain on the

fifth last year, and Clipsal, joint

seventh, fail to make it into the

5th Future Automation - 8.46%

6th B&R Enclosures - 7.46%

There's no real surprise here as

4th Snap One - 12.44%

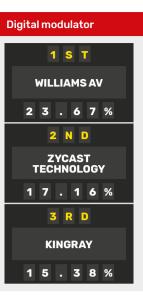
listings this year.

board in similar positions to last

vear, although both increase their

share of the votes. Altronics joint

CONTROL



This category has chopped and changed a bit in the last couple of years and there's a new winner again this year in Williams AV, which debuted in the category last year. Last year's winner, Kingray, is pushed down to third place as ZyCast Technology jumps from fifth to second. ZeeVee also makes some good progress, rising by two places while ClearView returns to the board after being absent last year. Dynalink is another new addition to the list but there's no space for last year's runner-up, Novonde, or fourth-placed Matchmaster.

COMMUNICATIONS

CONTROL

CONTROL

- 4th ZeeVee 12.43% 5th ClearView - 11.83%
- 6th Dynalink 11.24%

Rack cooling systems



In recent years, this category has opened up a lot and there is a new winner again this year in last year's third-placed AC Infinity. Joint winners in 2021, Sanus and Cool Components drop to second and fourth, respectively. Rackmount Solutions and Active Thermal Management maintain their rankings from 2021, while Middle Atlantic, a serial winner of this award prior to last year climbs one spot into third place. There's quite a gulf between the top three and the rest of the board, with 9% between third and fourth places.

- 4th Cool Components 13.23%
- 5th Rackmount Solutions 11.64% 6th Active Thermal Management

- 4.76%

COMMUNICATIONS

Video conferencing equipment



It's another turbulent year in this category as, with the exception of Logitech returning to the top spot, there are plenty of movers and shakers. Last year's winner, Vaddio, fails to make the board this year and runner-up AVer can only manage sixth place this year. Wyrestorm features for the first time, pushing out competition from another newcomer, ClearOne, and the returning Barco in joint fourth. Crestron and Yamaha share seventh place. But there's no room for Williams AV or Wolfvision, both of whom featured last year.

= 4th Barco, ClearOne - 13.27% 6th AVer - 11.73% = 7th Crestron, Yamaha - 11.22%

Racks/cabinets



COMMUNICATIONS

1 S T BARCO 19.90% 2 N D BLUSTREAM 15.92% 3 R D RTI 14 . 93%

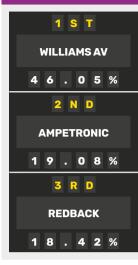
Presentation/Collaboration tools

Barco once again takes the top spot and increases its vote share by over 10%. But Blustream has also doubled its vote to take second place and debutant RTI isn't too far behind in third. In fact, there isn't much between any of the top six here, particularly from second to sixth with gaps as small 0.5% in some cases. Wolfvision has dropped three places while last year's runner-up, Williams AV, fails to make the cut this year. So too does Newline Interactive but Wyrestorm is a new addition to leaderboard.

4th Crestron - 14.43% 5th Wyrestorm - 12.44% 6th Wolfvision - 11.94%



Hearing loop



Electronic whiteboards

1 S T

NEWLINE

INTERACTIVE

23.57%

2 N D

SMART

20.00%

3 R D

TEAMBOARD

15.00%

COMMUNICATIONS

The line-up here is almost identical to last year - that's partly due to the number of contenders and partly to the dominance of one in particular. Williams AV has increased its vote share to a remarkable 46%, further cementing the stranglehold it has in this category. Ampetronic and Redback maintain their rankings from last year but there's not much between the two who had, in the previous year, simply switched places. Univox holds onto fourth place but Contacta and Humantechnik swap spots on their rankings from last year.

4th Univox - 11.18% 5th Humantechnik - 7.89% 6th Contacta - 5.92%

COMMUNICATIONS

Newline Interactive makes it backto-back wins in this category, having debuted in first place last year. SMART maintains its position in second place but last year's third-placed Sharp has dropped one place to allow TeamBoard to steal into third place. Canon and Hitachi, both returning brands from last year, share fifth place while Learning Glass drops from fourth place to seventh. It's a notably tight category with vote shares differing very little from last year's margins - the bottom half of the board is particularly open.

4th Sharp - 14.29%

= 5th Canon, Hitachi- 12.86% 7th Learning Glass - 11.43%

UPS



ELECTRICAL

Power Shield was going for a hat-trick this year but has been pipped by APC which had secured third place last year - there's little between the top two though. Eaton secures a 6% incrase in vote share to climb one spot. Last year's runner-up, Furman, drops down to fourth while Niveo Professional holds onto fifth place. Powertech returns to the board after being absent for the past two years and puts a bit of pressure on Niveo just ahead of it. ABB, last year's sixth-placed brand, drops off the leaderboard.

4th Furman - 16.57% 5th Niveo Professional - 10.29% 6th Powertech - 9.71%



COMMUNICATIONS

There isn't a huge amount of change in this category as Samsung maintains its first place position, and increases its lead on closest contender Newline Interactive, which holds its position from last year's debut. BenQ jumps from joint fifth up to third, pushing Epson out of the top three to a shared fourthplace with LG. The latter has jumped up from joint seventh last year, recording a big increase in vote share. TeamBoard also goes one position better than last year while Microsoft falls from fourth down to seventh.

= 4th Epson, LG- 11.64%

- 6th TeamBoard 9.52%
- 7th Microsoft 8.99%

If you'll excuse the pun. Thor

Surge protection



hammers home its dominance in this category, making it a remarkable 11 wins in a row this year. Its lead has reduced but it still commands almost one-third of the vote share. SurgeX and Furman swap places on their standings from last year and the gap between the top two and chasing pack has widened. APC, Power Shield and Belkin are all returning brands, though none of them is in the same place as last year: Power Shield drops two places, Belkin rises one, as does APC by Schneider Electric.

ELECTRICAL

SECURITY

4th	APC by Schneider Electric - 11.37%
5th	Belkin - <mark>9.48</mark> %

6th Powershield - 9.00%

Integrated security system



The top three remain the same here as Ness chalks down another win, albeit with a reduced share of the votes, compared to last year's 39%. Inner Range increases its share by just under 2% while Bosch rallied to increase its vote share by nearly 5%. Honeywell climbs from joint sixth up to fourth place while Tiandy drops one place to sixth. Axis returns to the board after a two-year absence and is just a vote or two away from Honeywell. There's no place this vear for Risco Group or Paradox. fourth and joint-sixth respectively last year.

4th Honeywell - 9.33% 5th Axis - 8.81% 6th Tiandy - 6.74%



SECURITY

TOOLS

FURNITURE

IP security camera



SECURITY

TOOLS

FURNITURE

Again, there's little in the way of change in this cateogry as the top six includes all of last year's players, just in slightly different order. What isn't different is the one-two as Hikvision comfortably holds onto its top spot. Ness takes second place but, really, it seems like there's no catching Hikvision and its massive vote share. There's very little between the brands in fourth, fifth and sixth, and, again, the three are all in different positions to last year: Bosch rises two places, Dahua drops two places and Tiandy drops one place.

4th Bosch - 9.85% 5th Dahua - 8.87% 6th Tiandy - 8.37%



There's no change in the six listed brands here but there is a change at the top as Ness, vying for back-toback wins, is just nudged out by Hikvision by less than 1%. Control4 moves up one position and is very much chasing the leaders with its vote share. 2N rises one spot with a slight increase in votes. Former winner, Aiphone, also climbs one position to take fifth place. Doorbird took third place last year but can only manage sixth this year. But the tight vote share at the top suggests serious competition in this category in the future.

4th 2N - 16.75% 5th Aiphone - 15.31%

- 6th Doorbird 11.48%
- Software



Ubiquiti has gone back-to-back in this category after storming to a compelling win last year. BlueBeam keeps its second place position but gets a bit of a fright from SimPro which has added 9% to its vote share and is just a short distance behind. D-Tools, a former winner in this category, holds onto its fourth place position with just a vote or two between it and SimPro. TP Link shares sixth place with the returning Kramer AV. Meanwhile, Utelogy is a new entrant on the board, slotting into fifth place with a respectable vote of just under 10%.

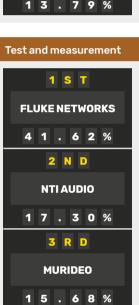
4th D-Tools - 18.42% 5th Utelogy - 9.87% = 6th Kramer AV, TP Link - 8.55%

Tactile Sound Transducer (Shaker)



After a slightly tighter race last year, Earthquake Sound has increased its lead while closest contender D-Box drops off in the voting a bit. It all results in Earthquake Sound winning by quite a comfortable margin. There's decent breathing space between second and third place where Buttkicker has increased its vote by 12% to climb two spots into third place, edging Kramer AV down the pecking order and into joint fourth with Crowson. Clark Synthesis holds its position in sixth.

= 4th Crowson, Kramer AV - 10.32% 6th Clark Synthesis - 8.73%



top spot in this category. NTI Audio is the other familiar name in the top three here as third place goes to the returning Murideo, pushing Platinum Tools down the board. AVPro Edge climbs one spot to fourth, with a vote share that would suggest potential to challenge NTI and Murideo in the future. Klein Tools keeps its spot in sixth place, just behind Platinum Tools. The big story though is Fluke Network's ever increasing dominance in the category.

Fluke Networks increases its vote

share to comfortably hold onto the

4th AVPro Edge - 13.51% 5th Platinum Tools - 7.57% 6th Klein Tools - 6.49%

Seating



There's a change at the top this year as Row One, the winner in 2020, rallies to jump from third back to first place. Last year's winner, LP Morgan, drops to third while Manhattan climbs two spots to take second place. Last year's runnerup, Cogworks Design, drops to joint fifth with new entrant, Cineak. Fortress gives a strong showing, almost doubling its vote to take fourth place. Jaymar keeps itself on the board in seventh place, sharing the spoils with returning brand, Suncoast Seating.

4th Fortress - 12.20% = 5th Cineak, Cogworks Design -9.76% = 7th Jaymar, Suncoast Seating -

7.32%