

Installation Profile



ASHLY AMPLIFIERS OUTPERFORM THE COMPETITION AT POLAND'S GDYNIA MUNICIPAL FOOTBALL STADIUM

GDYNIA, POLAND – Located in the port city of Gdynia, Poland, the brand new Gdynia Municipal football stadium is home to Arka Gdynia, the city's legendary football (Americans: read "soccer") club. The new stadium is a source of civic pride, seating 15,000 in an environment of cheery colors, inviting architecture and modern conveniences. The old stadium, which occupied the same site, sat only a few thousand fans and had an outdated feel, amplified (ironic pun intended) by a grossly underperforming sound system. To complement the refreshing visual aesthetic, a brand new aural aesthetic wraps Gdynia Municipal Football stadium in clear, articulate sound. D.A.S. loudspeakers receive abundant, high fidelity power from Ashly network-enabled amplifiers.

Piotr Nowiński, systems engineer at Sopot, Mega Music's Poland-based audio/visual installation division, led the charge at Gdynia. "Another company executed the design for the new sound system," he said. "Although we were comfortable with the principles of the design, we weren't comfortable with the manufacturers that they had suggested. Because we have completed many successful projects with the general contractor, they gave us the go-ahead to substitute manufacturers we could stand behind."

The system is comprised of nearly fifty zones. Each zone contains two loudspeakers - one on an inner ring and a second on an outer ring. A delay separates each pair such that the signals that arrive at the spectators are appropriately signal-aligned. A handful of the zones cover the field.

Nowiński distributed the processing and power for the sound system using one control room and three node rooms equally distributed around the stadium. The control room contains a mixing console, which provides a familiar surface for the stadium's sound technicians to wrangle input sources, such as announcement microphones, music, and pre-recorded messages. A laptop PC uses Ashly's Protea™ software to control and monitor the Ashly Networkable amplifiers. To prevent tampering, Mega Music used Protea's software platform to disable the front panel controls of the NE amps (including the on/off switch).

The control room and the three node rooms distribute the DSP and amplifier load. Ten Ashly DSP-enabled ne8250PE, three Ashly DSP-enabled ne4250PE and two ne1600 amplifiers deliver power to Gdynia's many loudspeakers. Nowiński used the onboard processing power of the Ashly Networkable amplifiers to provide protection limiting and delays.

Nowiński's choice of Ashly was quite deliberate. "The Ashly amplifiers are remarkably powerful – delivering 250 watts per channel – and yet packed inside a two-rack-space unit," he said. "That way, we were able to conserve rack space and still give the client a very powerful system. In addition, the ease with which we were able to network the Ashly units was helpful. In addition, Ashly builds reliable units that are backed, on those rare instances when it is needed, by great customer support."