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09/01/2012 RME HDSPe MADI FX starts shipping

The new 390-channel PCI express card HDSPe MADI FX from german professional audio company RME is now available.

The HDSPe MADI FX marks a new milestone both in the history of audio interface cards in the past two decades and within the long series of outstanding RME devices. Never before has such a high-performance multi-channel audio system existed.

The HDSPe MADI FX features no less than 390 audio channels, 194 inputs and 196 outputs. Three MADI I/Os - two optical and one coaxial – are accompanied by one AES/EBU I/O and one analog monitoring output. The coaxial MADI I/O can be replaced by an optional expansion board - available soon - with a third optical MADI I/O. To complete the feature set, a Word Clock connection and four MIDI ports were added.

The complete technology and connectivity are highly integrated into the smallest possible amount of space - typical for RME. Only one PCIe slot is required on the motherboard, plus one free slot on the case.

To guarantee RME's unique low latency performance with such a huge amount of audio channels, the HDSPe MADI FX introduces a newly developed modular Hammerfall Pro Audio Core. The high-tech core processes three times as many channels as the channel count of the previous RME MADI flagship, while actually reducing the system load and enabling ultra-low latencies down to 32 samples on modern computers.

A sophisticated new efficiency technology will automatically deactivate currently unused channels, so that they require no processing power or bandwidth. A simple stereo playback will not require any more performance than from a standard stereo audio card - despite the use of a professional multi-channel system with almost 400 channels.

The new core technology is accompanied by a special version of TotalMix FX, handling the enormous channel count in an efficient and practical way. The addition of numerous performance optimizations ensures that the 4096-channel mixer of the MADI FX responds just as smoothly as its 1800-channel counterpart in the Fireface UFX. A new and faster DSP allows for a greater number of EQs and compressors.

An innovative new layout of TotalMix enables ergonomic handling of the enormous number of channels. A special option makes it possible to visually hide unused channels. "Hide" setups can be saved at any time, and switched with a simple mouse click, for example between the channel view of the drum mix and the full band setup.

The 192 kHz RME effects engine allows latency-free monitoring with numerous effects like EQs, Compressors, Reverb, and Echo rendered directly on the hardware of the card, independent from the DAW software in use.

The integrated TotalMix matrix offers a convenient use of the card as powerful MADI router. Unlike most other router solutions, each channel can be routed individually, even with separate level settings for each routing. The unparalleled flexibility of TotalMix can turn the most exotic routing and signal distributing setups into practical reality.

An innovation is the new RME Seamless Redundancy Mode, a professional state-of-the-art fail safe

operation. In this mode the card is connected with two or three MADI connections, but operates as single MADI input device, recording up to 64 channels. All three MADI inputs were used to receive the same signal, the card can use not only one, but two more sources for redundancy. As soon as the current input fails the audio data received from one of the other two inputs is used. No relocking and synchronization to a different clock source is required, and the interruption caused by the external failure is minimized to a few samples.

The HDSPe MADI FX works on Windows and Mac OS.

Short version:

RME's new HDSPe MADI FX is now available. The 390-channel PCI express card marks a new milestone in the history of audio interfaces. Such a high performance multi-track system and advanced MADI router has never existed before!

Three MADI I/Os - two optical and one coaxial – one AES/EBU I/O and one analog monitoring output. Plus Word Clock connection and four MIDI I/Os. A third optical MADI I/O is optionally available.

To guarantee RME's unique low latency performance the card introduces a newly developed modular Hammerfall Pro Audio Core. The core processes three times as many channels as before, but actually reduces the system load and enables ultra-low latencies down to 32 samples.

The included high-end digital mixer not only uses the card as powerful MADI router, with separated level settings for each routing. The 192 kHz effects engine also provides numerous latency-free hardware effects like EQs, Compressors, Reverb, and Echo.

State-of-the-art fail safe operation: the new RME PCI express flagship provides 64-channel recording with seamless redundancy. As soon as the current input fails, one of the other two inputs is used. Switching the inputs takes less than a sample.

The HDSPe MADI FX works on Windows and Mac OS.

High resolution images:

http://www.rme-audio.de/en_press_downloads.php?page=content/press/hdspemadi_fx

Product website:

<http://www.rme-audio.de/madifx>

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