



QCM Studio A - Robert Van Der Vlies (Amber Technology), Brett Voss (Griffith University), Doug Watt (Musiclab) and Paul Lindsay (SSL)

SSL ENROLS AT GRIFFITH UNI

AUSTRALIA: Australia's Gold Coast is famous for its sunshine, golden sands and stunning surf beaches. A popular choice for local and international students, the recent installation of a Solid State Logic AWS 900 console into Griffith University's Gold Coast Campus might have students swapping surfboards for mixing boards.

For Griffith University recording studio technician Brett Voss, the decision to upgrade to an SSL AWS900 was a carefully calculated one: 'We decided to invest in SSL because of its reputation for

quality components and sound, and also because it provides the best of both worlds [analogue and digital],' he said. 'The great sound, logical layout and seamless way it integrates with Pro Tools 8 are all standout features.'

The campus is quite impressive and boasts four studio control rooms. Studio A houses the new SSL console with a solid selection of preamps from Avalon, Universal Audio, Amek and Focusrite. It also has a TC Electronic System 6000 reverb unit, an AMS Neve 8816 summing mixer with 8804 fader pack, an Empirical Labs EL-8 Distressor, and is monitored through Genelec and Dynaudio

Acoustics speakers. 'From a teaching perspective it is important to give our students the opportunity to mix on a desk rather than a mouse and have access to an extensive range of equipment,' Mr Voss says. 'The SSL allows a renewed focus on analogue signal flow and processing, and works well with pro tools in DAW mode.'

Studios B, C and D all have a similar range of outboard equipment with different control surfaces. A Digidesign Pro-Control resides in Studio B, a Mackie control with fader expansions in Studio C, and a Digidesign Command 8 in Studio D. All of these rooms have Digidesign pro tools HD Accel systems running

v8 software on Apple dual quad core computers. 'We are looking towards upgrading Studio B next year with a new console/control surface and will be looking at options later this year for this,' Mr Voss added. 'So far the response from students to the SSL has been really promising.'

To cater for the Bachelor of Popular Music (BPM) students, the campus also has four smaller postproduction editing rooms comprising a range of DAW software and hardware, along with an extensive microphone selection (Shure, Røde, Audio-Technica, Neumann and AKG) and guitar amplifiers and keyboards. 'The studios are in use 24/7 by the 117 full-time BPM students as well as a number of post-graduate students and staff. I do know that visitors to the facility have commented on the range of outboard gear that we have here.'

Griffith University has had an ongoing relationship with Brisbane-based retailer Musiclab since the program was first offered in 1999, with Musiclab being the primary supplier of pro audio equipment for the campus. For Musiclab managing director Doug Watt, the SSL installation further establishes the close relationship and industry partnership with Griffith University:

'Musiclab has a long-standing relationship with Griffith University and is proud to be an industry partner,' he said. 'The SSL replaced a Digidesign Pro-Control which was supplied by Musiclab when the studio was originally commissioned in 2001.'

Music wholesaler Amber Technology supported Musiclab and arranged for the delivery of the console, provided on-site training and organised visits from UK-based SSL staff to the campus. Amber Technology regional professional and broadcast products sales manager Robert Van Der Vlies was happy to be involved.

'We pride ourselves on being involved with the shaping of Australia's next generation of audio engineers and producers,' he commented.

'We help by providing them with the professional solutions that they will encounter when entering the professional job market. SSL mixing consoles are truly world-class and can be found with significant numbers in the top music recording/postproduction and broadcast facilities in Australia and indeed around the world.'

www.griffith.edu.au
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