

Having no chance of seeing everything, I focused on products that were new to me – this is the pile of stuff I picked up on new and interesting stuff! Just out of interest, if you were thinking of discussing Smart Homes with your clients soon, this is a list of all the systems I had a look at – only the first 5 are familiar to me!

- |             |            |                    |
|-------------|------------|--------------------|
| 1. SAVANT   | 8. Nomos   | 15. Teco Foxtrot   |
| 2. Lutron   | 9. Contec  | 16. BKAV Smarthome |
| 3. Crestron | 10. Proxi  | 17. Fibaro         |
| 4. Control4 | 11. Onp    | 18. Vantage        |
| 5. KNX      | 12. Z-Wave | 19. Auluxa         |
| 6. Ekinex   | 13. HDL    | 20. Pure Demotica  |
| 7. Wago     | 14. Helvar | 21. Woice          |

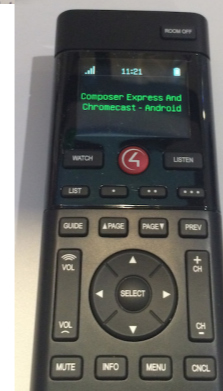
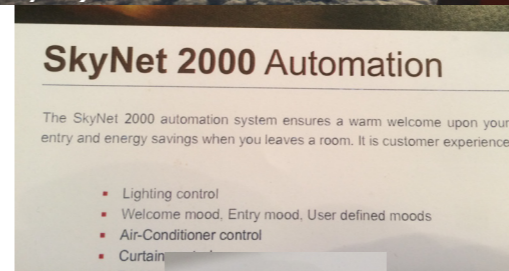


**Highlights:**

- New Control4 Remote control and Touchscreens
- New Door intercom integration for Control4, and a faster response time on bell push with release 2.7
- Nest is integrated into Control4
- Fingerprint readers are now available for Control4
- Future Automation have a new version of the 180 degree Tilt and turn bracket (typically superseding the one in our showroom!), and new Lutron Din Rail panels with output breakers.
- There is a new Movie server system in from the US called Morpheus – this looks good enough for a whole article which will be the focus of our next bulletin – Movie Servers, putting Kaleidescape, Outclass, Morpheus and ReQuest head to head!
- Telest's system for networking both HDMI and ethernet through existing (old school) RF Coax cables.
- Artcooustic speakers are now so attractive, I will be putting some in my showroom.
- Cornerspeaker do a speaker that, well, fits into a corner! A great solution for retrofit home cinemas.
- Videotree have a great new bathroom TV option.
- Sonance have a new Architectural invisible speaker range.
- There is an new kid on the HDMI Matrix block, called Bluestream, from down under, who will be putting out even more cost effective HDBaseT matrixes into the UK market.
- Lutron have released a new range of Keypads - see best keypad of the show!
- 'Woice' voice control app is ideal for some assisted living projects we are looking at.
- A new product called Dynamic Light Surface which will give us architectural ambient lighting options is of interest – this will also be reviewed in the next bulletin.



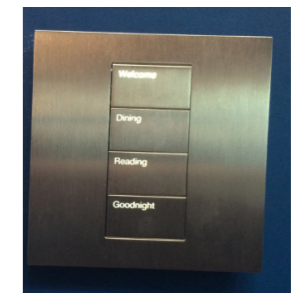
My award for most 'Dodgy' name for a Home control system is City Grow Systems which has called its new offering 'SKYNET 2000'... Whilst is doesn't promise that it is fully sentient yet, it does promise 'a warm welcome home upon your entry'.. :)



A productive (non-stop) 2 days was spent touring the stands at ISE at the RAI in Amsterdam last week. According to the GPS we covered 15km over the two days!

There is always an element of 're-inventing' the wheel at these shows and this year did not disappoint, as there were even more new companies launching new home control systems than last time – and all offering the same thing, pretty much. The one good thing about this explosion in choice (other than an increase in demand for integration consultants to sort through it all...) is that it will put a downward pressure on the price for smart home technology, and therefore increase demand. With the addition of more and more attractive and 'properly' functional solutions out there, we are surely at the tipping point now when any new scheme, build or refurb should include as standard an element of Smart Home Technology and Audio, if not yet fully fledged home cinema.

Whilst Lighting has been revolutionised by the coming of LED, TV by the development of affordable 4K and Audio distribution by robust wireless transmission of digital music (Sonos and their copies) the Smart home systems are now becoming fully IP integrated, meaning that it is nearly at the point at which these systems are truly 'End User Configurable', without the need for expensive programmers. That is clearly where some of the new brands are headed. More and more TV brands (LG, Samsung) and appliance manufacturers are building in IP control protocols as standard, and sharing this with 3rd parties. This means everything will be able to 'talk' to everything else 'out of the box'.



**Keypad of the Show**

Our choice is the new Lutron "Palladium". Simple and smooth with sleek button engraving, in both UK and US form factors, with a range of finishes including Glass.

**Speaker of the Show**

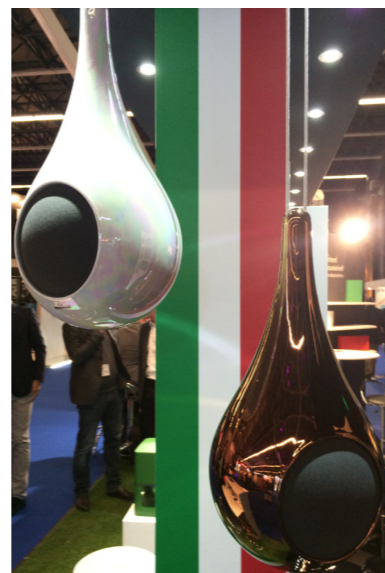
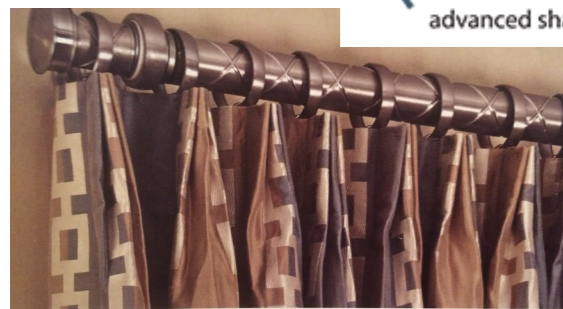
This one was hard to judge, as a lot of the point in a speaker is the audio quality – however the busy RAI is no place to test this! This choice was purely on the aesthetic! Our choice in this category was the Garvan Acoustic Range of 'Drop' Ceramic hanging speakers, fired from Faenza ceramics in any number of colours;

<http://www.garvanacoustic.com/en/products/drop/item/108-drop-speakers-hanging-speaker-loudspeaker-ceramic-loudspeakers>

**Product of the Show**

This one was easy! I was blown away by the simplicity and innovation of the range of Qmotion Blinds. Whilst the battery powered roller blinds were silent and simple to install, I was even more impressed with the Venetian blinds, which will be available in the spring. Then I saw the curtains! What an great idea, rather than using a track system, Qmotion [www.qmotionshades.co.uk](http://www.qmotionshades.co.uk) has developed a simple roller that acts as the curtain pole, but clever grooves in the pole pulls the curtains closed or open as the whole pole rotates. See the video here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yM4fBKswfzk>



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