

**By Khaled Hadi, CTO, Melody Entertainment, Egypt**



As the CTO of Melody in Egypt, we have supplied Audemat's Digiplexer 2/4 audio processor to the transmitter site of Melody FM in Cairo, one of the leading radio stations in the Middle East.

Melody Entertainment Holding is a large media Group operating in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and other countries in the Region. The FM radio division, Melody FM, is proud of the quality of its audio content and contacted Audemat about audio processing equipment that would deliver a loud and powerful sound, which is the sonic signature of the station.

We had a positive experience with Audemat equipment in the past. We selected the Digiplexer 2/4 over Orban that we used in the past. Audemat had supplied myself with the results of tests showing how several broadcasters preferred the performance of Audemat's HQSound audio processing engine over many other (and more expensive!) brands and, once we had the unit on-site, we were able to hear how impressive it was. The powerful 4 Band HQSound processor and highly precise 1.5MHz FM limiter ensured that our staff were greatly impressed with the loudness, the audio fidelity and the general performance. When the processor was driven very loud, the Sound Impact System working on audio peaks produced a truly dynamic sound even when high compression was required.

Aside from the sound quality, we had some other specific criteria; the local climate requires a heavy duty unit that could operate in high temperatures and we also needed silence detection on the processor. These were not an issue for the Audemat unit.

As well as being an exceptional audio processor, the Digiplexer also belongs to Audemat's "Radio All in One" range. This means it combines other key features in its 1U chassis. These include RDS encoding, stereo encoding, audio back-up and I/O remote control. These features offered several unexpected benefits for Melody's application such as the audio back-up feature which provides extra security should we lose audio inputs. In this worst case scenario, Melody FM can either stream from a SHOUTCast/ ICEcast server directly to the unit or can access files stored on the 80Gb hard drive. These files can be arranged into playlists that are scheduled to play at specific times or activated using contact closures. Another key benefit for Melody was the IP connectivity provided by the unit. They can access the unit remotely with full configuration and control but they can also use the Digiplexer unit as a remote control device to centralize alarms from third party equipment in the same site.

We installed the Digiplexer 2/4 in October 2010 which was an easy process. Soon after this, we had an electrical fault on the transmitter site. It is in such difficulties that we see the true value of the broadcast equipment we have in operation. In this case, the audio back-up function on the Digiplexer worked exactly as planned and at the same time we were able to quickly identify the issue via the remote control and solve it without delay. In other words, the Digiplexer kept Melody on air and helped us resolve the problem – I can't ask for much more from an audio processor!

Overall, I have a very good impression of the Digiplexer 2/4 audio processor and will not hesitate to recommend it for future radio installations. The amount of features in a 1U box is incredible, the audio quality is truly exceptional, it provides all the reliability Melody requires plus it is user friendly.