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VISUAL ATTRACTION

FRANK IRISH • VIDEO AND VISUALS • NETWORKED AUDIO

THINK ABELE

COMPANY
GERMANY

YEARS OF MOTION

Kinetic solutions specialist, Think Abele, are set to mark a major milestone next year, when founder Andrew Abele and his team celebrate the company's 25th anniversary.

Think Abele is most well known for being the exclusive distributor of Movecat equipment worldwide. Based near Stuttgart in Nufringen, Germany, Think Abele actually began as a supplier of equipment to the entertainment industry before developing into a system house for audio visual equipment, with the focus on tailor-made special solutions satisfying very high standards in terms of both quality and safety. Solutions of this kind from Think Abele can be found in places such as the Saxon State Opera in Dresden and the spectacular new national opera house in Oslo, Norway. After 10 years of experience in the industry, Think Abele began the development and production of its own devices: chain hoists from Movecat with load-bearing capacities ranging from 125 to 6,000 kilograms and the requisite controllers. Movecat is Think Abele's own brand; its products are developed and manufactured exclusively at the company headquarters. Movecat's product range includes modular kinetic solutions both for classic BGV D8 rigging, BGV CI applications in theatres, studios, multi-function halls, and for events, and D8 Plus hoists and controllers. With this line up, Movecat can offer a complete solution for every area of application, allowing users to assemble from drives, controllers or cables, to create a perfectly functioning system that has been fully tested in practice.

Compliance with the highest safety and environmental regulations is an indispensable Movecat standard. Among the most interesting aspects of the intelligent systems are safety-relevant features that bring the devices into compliance with DIN EN 61508 SIL1-SIL3, which in their maximum implementation, allows them to be used for the movement of loads over the heads of people, without special authorisation needing to be sought - thereby obviating a time consuming and often expensive process.

It is also possible to integrate the equipment seamlessly into pre-existing systems, as well as control additional drives for things such as podiums, screens, personal flying gear, rotating platforms and curtains. An important advantage from the user's point of view is the function compatibility of the systems which embraces both their fundamental structure and their user ergonomics, making

Think Abele headquarters in
Nufringen, Germany



Founder Andrew Abele



it possible to extend systems in line with changing needs without undertaking radical changes or needing to replace components. The utility of the standard hardware can be enhanced and extended through the integration of carefully considered special solutions such as load measurement systems, trolleys that can be positioned with ease and precision, and both fixed and variable-speed drives - the latter offering speeds variable from zero to up to 42 metres per minute. Think Abele also offers maintenance contracts and UVV testing for kinetic equipment to its customers. Movecat's new Touring Racks are the latest addition to the range. 'All-in-One' was the watchword of the product developers, who worked closely with a number of major rigging companies in their development. Each compact rack accommodates not only the controller itself, but also the control panel and power station. The features of the new Touring Racks include automatic phase and rotating field detection and switching, up and down master run with only one switch, illuminated display of all operating conditions, and the possibility of connecting external enabling switches. Up to 256 drives can be linked into one network, which represents a considerably more affordable solution than the corresponding number of individual controllers.

Think Abele has also recently founded the Movecat Academy to provide qualified support and the requisite know-how for users and operators of motorised lifting gear. The establishment of this institution was predicated on the ever steepening legal obligations applicable to the upkeep and operation of technical equipment, which stem from a plethora of guidelines and regulations promulgated by a wide range of institutions. The current programme of seminars offered by Movecat Academy is available for download from its website. **M**