Case Study

Eurovision Song Contest 2015

The Project

Stage: LED elements for the "eye" of the stage,
the edge of the main stage,
backlighting step edges and the wireless
platform for the host

Installed Technology

LED-Strips C, LED-Strips B,
System Power Supply 4E, Pixel-Gate

In operation

19.04.2015 - 23.04.2015

Partner

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Photography

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The Project:
Effect lighting for the Show of Superlatives.

No other show can look back on such a rich tradition as the Eurovision Song Contest (ESC). In May 2015, the show of superlatives celebrated it's 60th anniversary with a show to beat all shows: singers from 27 countries competed against each other in front of 14-thousand enthusiastic fans in the Wiener Stadthalle in Vienna and another 200 million watching television at home.

The concept of the round stage 22-meters across brought ESC's fundamental idea to life. It connected singer and spectator, nations and cultures from around the world. It's most important design element: the luminous 'eye'. Forty-four meters long and 14 meters high, it consisted of 1,288 light columns that symbolized the participating nations. The "eye" cast the artists in the limelight and the light show enhanced the mood of the songs with elaborate and changeable effects.

To bring the sophisticated concept to life, Entertainment Technology Concepts GmbH (ETC) required LED light sources of the highest quality as well as an extremely flexible and reliable control. That's why ETC Managing Directors Volker Suhre and Alexander Klaus chose Schnick-Schnack-Systems as the partner to implement the LED technology for the stage and the eye.

Two technicians worked in the Netherlands for two weeks on the preparation of the construction. Before the event in Vienna, six additional days were needed from 12-18 of April – with a team of up to eight technicians.

The Job Profile: Light and Video Playback for a Complex Set Design

Florian Wieder, internationally renowned and Primetime Emmy Award winning set designer and Creative Director for the ESC developed the idea for the innovative and spectacular stage.

To get this technology stage-ready, ETC had to first develop the columns and find a way to control them. It was soon clear: the columns should not only be illuminated but should also be video-capable. The LED technology had to be extremely flexible, efficient and reliable – because there is no second chance in a live show; and especially when the whole world is watching.

The following requirements, among others, were listed in the specification sheet for the stage construction:

- Control of all lighting elements from a central lighting control unit
- Video controllability
- Variable adjustment of all lighting elements, with regards to arrangement
- Color temperature and color intensity
- High color fastness
- Camera-suitable dimmability without flickering

Instead of using lights or LED Panels, the decision was made to use LED-Strips from Schnick-Schnack-Systems and the production of the prototype began.

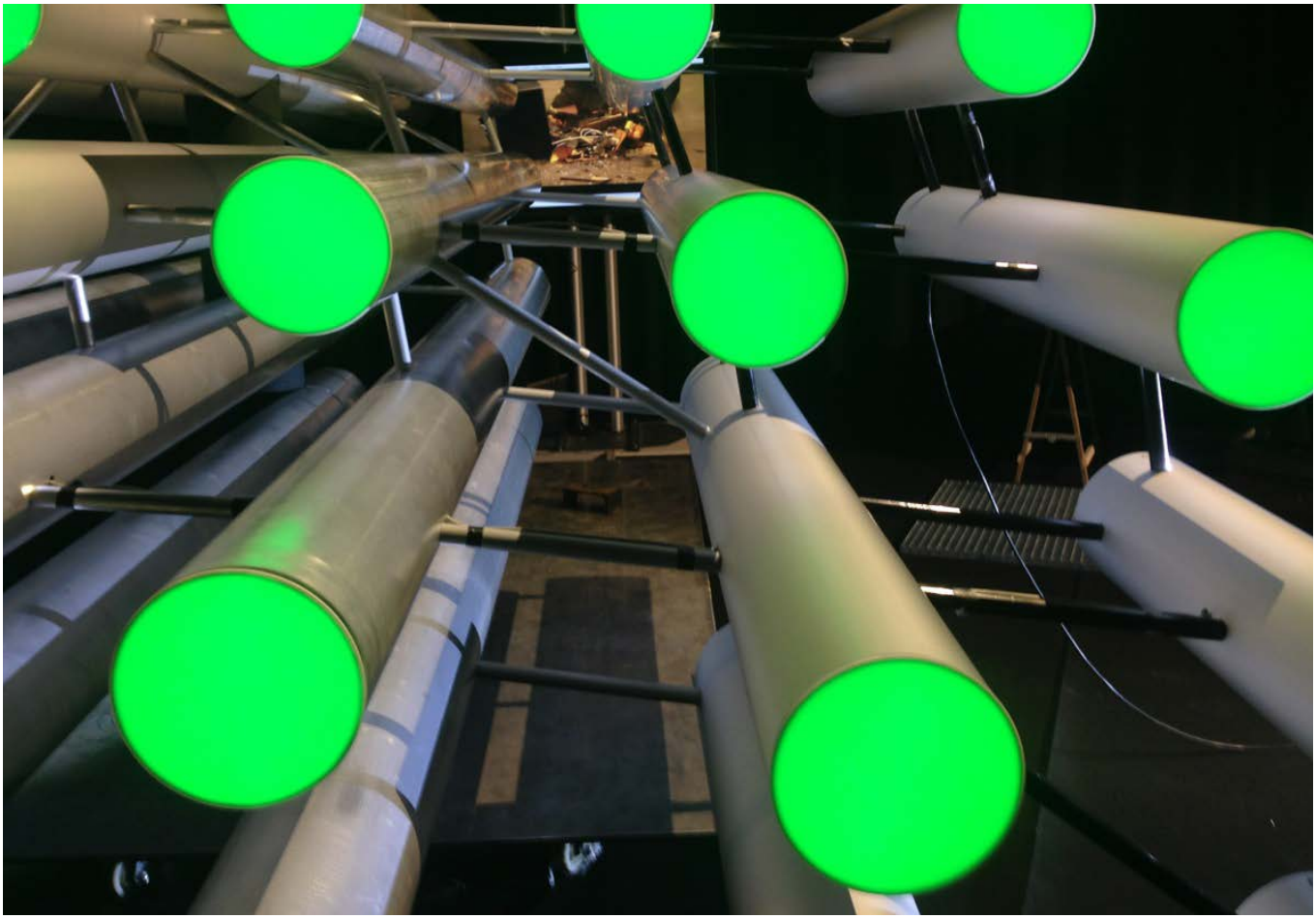
Right to the point: The Schnick-Schnack-Systems Solution

In order to achieve optimal results, a joint team was set up with Schnick-Schnack-Systems to conduct a series of tests. For the first prototype, we experimented with silver lacquered plastic tubes and deflector mirrors. In the end, mounting the LED Strips in a cross configuration prevailed. For the mock-up model, the developers screwed the intersecting LED-Strips into a wood construction and for high luminous efficiency added a kind of lampshade.

For the final installation, we used 1,288 aluminum pipes from 20 in diameter with lengths from 50cm up to eight meters. The greatest challenge here was the invisible cabling: to conceal the cable routing from the audience, ETC fed the cables along each stack-through connector through individually drilled holes in the pipes and attached everything with matching–color tape.

Two LED-Strips C25-250 per pipe delivered the desired light. An additional 200 C-Series LED-Strips framed the main stage. In the end, 16-hundred B Series LED-Strips ensured the perfect lighting of the edges of the steps and another 44 for the host's wireless platform.

Everything was controlled via Mediaserver, although two Pixel-Gates and 38 System Power Supply 4Es from Schnick-Schnack-Systems ensured the Mapping and at the same time handled the light and video signals so that the 'eye' could be illuminated with any desired effect.



Above The aluminum pipes already fitted with Schnick-Schnack-Systems technology before the stage was built.

Left The cross-shaped arrangement of the LED-Strips from Schnick-Schnack-Systems set into a "lampshade" provided the greatest luminous efficiency.

Why Schnick Schnack Systems?

As installation times become increasingly shorter the complexity of systems simultaneously increases as do the requirements of customers.

We are a supplier who delivers high-quality reliable systems – under tight deadline constraints that are not only quick to install but also simple to operate and service.

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