



Protec Delivers Explosive Opening Ceremony for the 2019 IDEX

Case Study

Lightware Visual Engineering



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Market	Country
Military and Defence/Staging	UAE (Abu Dhabi)
Lightware Equipment Used in Project	
Lightware MX-FR33L router frame with optical boards	

This is a shortened description, please read the original article for more details and insights.

The International Defence Exhibition & Conference (IDEX) is a biannual arms and defence technology sales exhibition. The exhibition is the largest defence exhibition and conference in the Middle East and takes place in Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates.

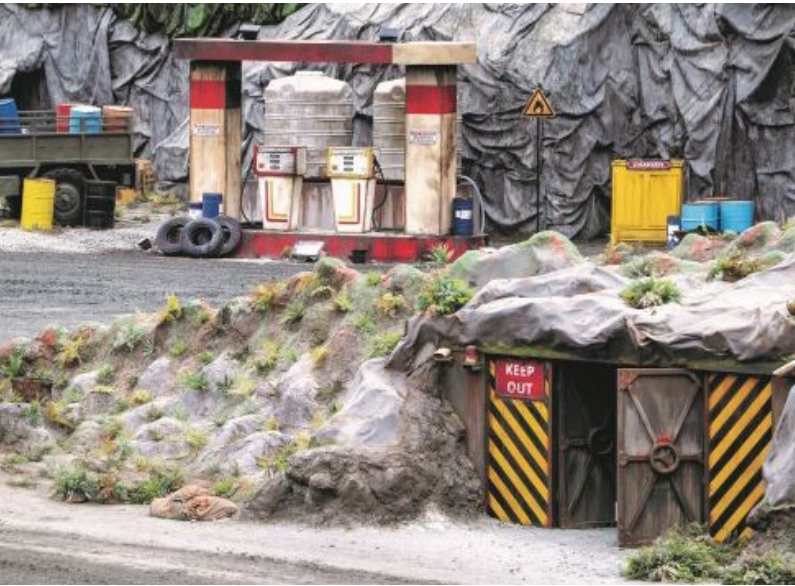
The IDEX opening ceremony in 2019 was a very unique theatrical show. From the military jets overhead and sinister drone swarms creating unpredictable skirmishes to the fast-moving armoured vehicle pursuits occurring amidst intense

firefights on the ground – there was adrenalin pumping action to be experienced every second for the 25,000 visitors who came to watch the LIVE action show over the five days it ran. The show began with a mix of local heritage performances followed by local and international military parades to welcome the crowd before the main part of the show. The scene was set for an exciting battle enactment of a fictitious scenario where an elite military group representing the Land Forces, Special Forces, Navy, and Air Force were deployed in a coordinated and synchronized manner to deal with rebel militia.



Working closely with senior representatives of the Armed Forces, Protec introduced modern and advanced military techniques augmented by VR, AI, robotics and SATCOMS. It also incorporated underground battles and other asymmetric warfare trends with futuristic counter defence systems in a live demonstration like no other in the world. It was a technology demonstration worth the dedicated staging set that Protec built up for the show, which left audiences and special guests struck in awe on all five days this show was run.





Tanks and armoured patrol vehicles repeatedly roared onto the stage from both sides carefully choreographed to create nail-biting suspense. Apaches, Blackhawks, and jets screamed overhead sending vibrations through the crowd while the battle was even taken underground into the mine tunnels taking the audience on a vicarious journey into the future of warfare. Friendly armed forces used modern and advanced systems and techniques augmented by virtual reality, artificial intelligence, robotics, unmanned systems, and satellite communications to locate and monitor militia movement. The friendly forces eventually seized control of the situation after fierce firefights onground, at sea, in the air and underground to bring stability and security to the area.

Two 16m x 9m LED screens were built into the upstage structures with access to work behind them and a 30m x 10m LED screen was built between the two upstage structures. These screens showed a combination of live camera and pre-filled filmed edits and animations to support the show.

Head of Video at Protec, Scott Walker, explained how a live show like this was delivered, "Video content was run from Protec's disguise (D3) media servers and through our Barco E2 to switch between graphics and live inputs from our cameras. Signal was run with full redundancy of Neutrik 12 core fibers through our Lightware MX frame 32 x 32 matrix." He added, "The biggest challenge for the video team on this show was the syncing of pre-filmed content with the live action of the show as everything had to be timed to perfection with the various aircraft fly-bys and military ground vehicle action."

The complete production for the IDEX 2019 Opening Ceremony was, according to the client and event organisers (IDEX LLC, GHQ, and ADNEC), the best they had seen and experienced in the exhibition's history which didn't just meet the brief but went well beyond expectations.



Source: <https://www.eventfaqs.com/news/ef-15842/protec-delivers-fourth-consecutive-explosive-opening-ceremony-for-the-silver-jubilee-of-idex>

