

## Q-Ball live in Trafalgar Square

by Adrian Pennington

Gravity Media Group's UK OB wing 021 Television is using Camera Corps' Q-Ball all-weather robotic cameras to provide video coverage for Sky Arts, of Antony Gormley's *One & Other* project.

The project concerns the Fourth Plinth of London's Trafalgar Square. Every hour, 24 hours a day, for 100 days without a break, individual volunteers are making the plinth their own. A total of 2,400 people are expected to participate between 6 July and 14 October.

Two Q-Balls with rain-protection covers are mounted above the Fourth Plinth plus an additional camera on the roof of 021's production room. They are being used for the production of regular one-hour reports on the event on Sky Arts 1 HD.

An HD feed is also being downconverted to deliver 24/7 video coverage of the event,

streamed via the Sky Arts website.

"Being ready for all kinds of weather is essential in any open-air operation, particularly when you are required to deliver a long-duration live feed," explained Gravity Media Group's COO, Kevin Moorhouse. "Q-Ball is nearer to being a sealed unit than any other camera we ever used which has obvious advantages when all the usual varieties of insect look on exterior cameras as a potential residence.

"Picture quality has proved very good and the downconverted webstreams are stunning. Although each performer is isolated about 4 metres above ground, the ability to switch between several cameras and to adjust parameters such as zoom, pan and tilt, gives SkyArts production staff plenty of creative flexibility."

"The Q-Ball's spherical housing is highly resistant to moisture and much less visually intrusive



Q-Ball stays in play, all day, every day

than an ordinary robotic camera," added Camera Corps' director of operations, Matt Frost. "The 100-day non-stop session is the longest of its kind we have ever been asked to supply robotic minicam equipment for but we have every confidence that the Q-Balls will meet the challenge."

11. C49

## AirTies' hat trick of launches

by Heather McLean

AirTies is marking three industry firsts at this year's IBC show. It has been previewing the industry's first high definition 802.11N wireless video set-top box featuring self-service customer provisioning, 3D graphics, and solid state storage on NAND flash.

Air 7224, the high definition, wireless, IPTV and web TV set-top box, is on display at the AirTies stand, as well as at the partner stands of SeaChange, GooMe,

Orca, Nordija and Opera.

The Air 7224 is the first set-top box to offer a seamless wireless video distribution at home in conjunction with a compatible AirTies wireless gateway.

With the addition of AirTies' Mesh Networking, the need for cables between multiple domestic devices is eliminated. The combination of the AirTies set-top box and gateway enables a simple one touch installation and set-up of secure wireless network by the end

user, getting rid of truck rolls and installation costs for the operators.

The new STB also features the new Broadcom BCM7413 chipset, offering high definition 3D graphics and up to 96 GB NAND flash memory, as well as wireless video and self service installation.

The hardware accelerator for 3D OpenGL ES allows for interesting user interface possibilities while the default two gigabit solid state NAND flash offers a cost-effective pause live TV feature for the masses without the shortcomings of a mechanical hard drive.

12. 303

## Hawk-Woods: a shortened battery

by David Fox

The new NP-35 from Hawk-Woods is a unique half-height Lithium-Ion NPI-style battery, aimed at providing sound recordists in particular with a lightweight, space-saving solution.

It produces 35 Watts of output, making this 'stubby battery' a useful alternative to a regular sized Ni-Cad battery, such as Hawk-Woods' 29W SNP-29. So as well as being weight and space saving, the NP-35 offers users 20% more power.

With identical width and depth dimensions, the NP-35 is similarly compatible with Hawk-Woods' NP-65 and NP-70 batteries, and can be used with its range of NPI chargers or shoe power adaptors.

11. A76



Napoleon complex: the stubby NP-35 is smaller but more powerful

## Stay healthy with Mirifice

by Ken Kerschbaum

Mirifice is demonstrating MiriMON, a system that provides consumer insight, service assurance, and customer care for broadcast networks by monitoring service delivery and the individual customer experience.

The system monitors the health and performance of all set-top boxes, the network and service infrastructure, and end-to-end service delivery.

The system also enables quick

fault diagnosis, reduces operational costs, and provides absolute viewing figures and service usage statistics. The company also improves the quality and reliability of set-top boxes, and the services consumed through them, with the MiriATE automated testing system and the MiriMON advanced 'live' performance monitoring system. Mirifice also provides specialist consultancy in software, systems and testing.

2. C21