



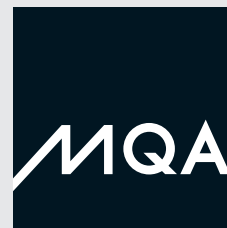
Meridian at International CES 2015

Venetian Tower 30-335 (Meridian), & 30-235 (MQA by Meridian), Las Vegas, NV, January 6–9, 2015

A Guide for Meridian Partners



Meridian is once again showing an exciting range of products and innovations at the 2015 International CES in Las Vegas, January 6–9. As last year, we are located in the Venetian Tower: in suite 30-335. In addition, 'MQA by Meridian' has its own suite at 30-235.



MQA – Master Quality Authenticated

Among the several significant advances on show in the Meridian suites at this year's CES is MQA – Master Quality Authenticated. This revolutionary new British technology, developed by Meridian, brings the sound of the studio to the listener – guaranteed. MQA, which involves major and independent record companies and will be available under license to other hardware and software manufacturers, is

so important a development that we have allocated 'MQA by Meridian' its own suite – 30-235.

Systems in the main Meridian suite will be demonstrating MQA extensively on a range of Meridian systems.

Products on show at CES – At A Glance

MQA by Meridian – Master Quality Authenticated brings together advanced new sampling technology and ingenious data packing techniques to make it possible to capture the sound as it was heard in the studio and deliver it *exactly* to the listener on a wide range of hardware and software systems and devices. Experience MQA in the *MQA by Meridian* suite and via demos in the main Meridian suite.

Special Edition Loudspeakers – Special Edition Loudspeakers were launched last year to mark the 25th anniversary of the launch of the first digital loudspeaker, Meridian's D600. Now the DSP5200SE, DSP7200SE and DSP8000SE are well established – but with the advent of MQA they take another step forward as they form an ideal rendering system for MQA playback as the final stage of a Meridian system.

DSP320 in-wall/in-ceiling DSP Loudspeaker – a new compact in-wall or in-ceiling DSP loudspeaker that features the same wide-range driver as the DSP520 along with a new oval "racetrack" bass driver. It's MQA-ready.

800 Series – 808 & 818 – All the 800 Reference Series see updates this year so that they can deliver MQA playback. 808 and 818 are on show at CES and 861 is scheduled for later in the year.

Explorer² – Launched a month ago, Explorer² is based on the successful Explorer, but includes MQA and other features based on market feedback.

Prime Headphone Amplifier – The Prime Headphone Amplifier has been updated (with a simple firmware upgrade for existing owners) to decode MQA streams and files for astonishingly lifelike audio performance

Sooloos –with TIDAL integration – TIDAL is the first of a new breed of high resolution streaming services, and they have partnered with Meridian to bring their high-quality streaming to Sooloos systems – now with MQA. Check out the MQA Sooloos demonstrations.

Integration with leading control and automation systems – As shown at CEDIA last year, Meridian systems can be integrated with a growing number of third-party systems including AMX, Crestron, Control4 and Savant.

“The Pioneers” brand campaign videos – An over-arching theme at this year’s show is the idea of “The Pioneers” – a series of brand campaign videos that we’ve been working on for the last few months that feature Meridian’s unparalleled track record of innovation. They’ll be on show around the suite and are backed up by graphics.

Master Quality Authentication (MQA)



MQA was launched at special events last month in London and New York, and it has rapidly become the talk of the industry. MQA stands for Master Quality Authentication, as you probably already know, and its goal is to enable listeners to hear music exactly as the artist and producer intended – nothing less. This lofty goal is achieved by a combination of advanced new digital sampling techniques along with powerful lossless encoding technology. Based on the latest neuroscience and psychoacoustic theories, MQA recognises that timing accuracy is the most important aspect of capturing realism in a performance. Unlike the current “arms race” of higher and higher sampling rates and longer word lengths, MQA’s novel “Encapsulation” technology focuses on capturing timing accuracy down to

the microsecond level and maintaining that right through to the listener. Virtually all traditional digital audio elements blur the timing, however, primarily due to the use of filters in the audio path. MQA avoids filtering the signal at all, and reconstructs for the listener what was actually heard when they pressed Record on the studio master.

The first MQA-enabled product is the Explorer² personal DAC, but many other Meridian products can also be upgraded for MQA playback, such as the Prime Headphone Amplifier (also on show), as the music becomes available, and new products will include it too. MQA is available to hardware and software manufacturers for license, while major and independent record companies are signing up too.

Special Edition Loudspeakers

We launched the Special Edition loudspeakers – **DSP5200SE, DSP7200SE and DSP8000SE** – in 2014 to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the launch of our pioneering D600 in 1989, the world’s first digital loudspeaker and the foundation upon which today’s Meridian DSP Digital Active Loudspeakers are built.

Visitors to CES will see – and hear – Special Edition Loudspeakers in many of the demonstrations, often showing off their MQA capability.



Special Edition loudspeakers include Meridian's latest innovations in digital loudspeaker system design, including a new driver, new electronics and new firmware, plus mechanical enhancements to deliver the highest-performing Meridian DSP Digital Active Loudspeakers available. DSP Loudspeakers will receive a firmware update in the spring that will give them the ability to render MQA files and streams delivered to them by suitable Meridian components. When replaying an MQA source, the front panel of the loudspeaker will display the sample rate of the capture of the original master recording. *MQA recreates the sound of the master exactly, irrespective of the sample rate used to transfer the data, which may differ from that of the source.*

In addition, the new DSP320 in-wall/ceiling loudspeaker will ship with MQA rendering capability.

800 Reference Series



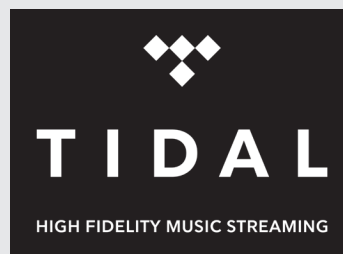
800 Series products, the 808v6 Reference CD Player and 818v3 Reference Media Core, will be available in the Spring to provide the ability to decode and render MQA streams and files as well as adding lip sync control.

The 861 Reference Surround Controller will receive an update later in the year.

Meridian Sooloos

The latest version of the Meridian Sooloos software, version 2.2, will be on display, featuring integration with the TIDAL high-resolution streaming system. Sooloos 2.2 also includes enhanced performance and improved iOS apps. At the same time, TIDAL will be launching their MQA streaming service, which will be presented in the suite.

TIDAL's move follows the announcement made by 7Digital last December that they will be introducing MQA downloads and streaming to their platform.



Explorer²



Explorer² is the successor to the extremely popular and successful Explorer pocket DAC. It contains much more powerful DSP capability than its predecessor, making it possible to provide the full range of Meridian resolution enhancement technologies such as the Apodising upsampling filter and MQA, making it the first

product to offer this capability. It's also cheaper than the original Explorer.

The Explorer² is also able to replay 192kHz files at their native sample rate, unlike many competitors.

The headphone output features a new advanced volume control with a full 100dB range, making it perfect for almost any headphones, including high-sensitivity types.

In addition, the unit includes an analogue fixed-level line output for driving external audio systems.

Prime Headphone Amplifier

The Prime Headphone Amplifier is capable of decoding and rendering MQA streams with the addition of a simple firmware upgrade, available this spring. In the case of existing units, an additional LED to the right of the 4x LED will illuminate to indicate the playback of MQA sources. In the case of a new unit, this LED is labelled accordingly.

Additional information

Hi-res images, Data Sheets, Press Releases and other materials can be accessed from the Meridian Media Centre **from January 6** at <http://meridian-audio.com/ces>

Contact your Account Manager for further information about anything contained in this Guide.