



What does the future hold?

It's that time of year again when we need to start gearing up for the social season – we've got three months of social events geared around Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Years, and everything in between. Children are returning to school, students are on their way back to university, and those of us in the satellite industry have recently returned from IBC 2017.

This has been my second year at the show, and it didn't disappoint. There's far more on offer than any one person can possibly tackle on the show floor, which was reflected in the increased visitor numbers. As well as catching up with key players in the satellite and communications sector, I make it a priority to take stock of the show as a whole, to check out the latest trends and technology, and to assess the general feeling in the air.

It was clear from this year's IBC that 4K and HDR continue to be a major focus; many stand to benefit from a more extensive roll-out, from those selling the latest TVs, to the content creators, broadcasters and satellite operators. On a related note, content security seemed to have ranked up to a higher level of importance this year, likely due to a combination of growing 4K roll-out and the increasing piracy threat. It's certainly a topic I'll be looking into on a deeper level in future issues. Virtual and augmented reality, too, were well represented at IBC 2017, although there wasn't anything as visually stunning at first glance as IBC 2016.

On the Saturday morning, 16 September, press were invited to a conference with David Hanson of Hanson Robotics Ltd. While not within the satellite communications field, the technology on display was truly dazzling. 'We bring robots to life' is more than just their tagline – Hanson brought along two of his creations, Professor Einstein, an educational robot designed to teach children, and Sophia, an advanced robot designed in Audrey Hepburn's image. During the event, press interacted

with Sophia to test her intelligence, with extremely impressive, if unnerving, results. So, watch this space – human-like robots with artificial intelligence are getting closer than ever before.

The general mood of the attendees was mixed this year. The exhibitors I spoke to were pleased with the event, and with their presence on the show floor – IBC remains a key show to be seen at. Visitors, too, were happy with the exhibition, and particularly pleased with the quality of the conference itself. However, there was also an air of concern about the status of the industry; finances are becoming increasingly pressed for many, and no one is entirely sure what the future holds. Nevertheless, in the next three months of social and professional engagements, we're sure to get a better idea of what to expect. The grapevine is a wonderful way of gathering casual information, and everyone enjoys a little scuttlebutt. 🍇



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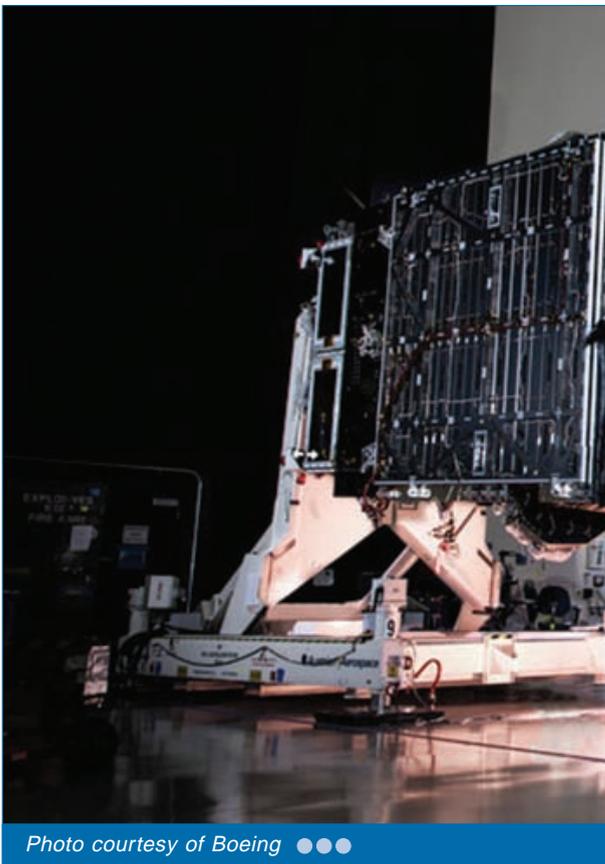


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