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Center stage at IBC: Three New Litepanels

Broadcasting's most innovative production lights took center stage at IBC 2011. Litepanels solid reputation and three new product introductions kept the stand busy throughout the show.

Building on the success of the Sola 6, and Sola ENG, Litepanels is expanding the Sola line with the new SOLA 4. Featuring a 4-inch (10cm) Fresnel lens, this daylight balanced 5600K fixture uses a small fraction of the power consumed by conventional lights. Sola 4 requires just 30W of power, yet provides the luminance output of a 250W conventional tungsten or 150W HMI Fresnel. Weighing 22 oz (.62kg), it can be powered from AC (120-240V) or DC (via XLR). The fixture has no external ballast, so there's no re-strike down time before being re-illuminated. We expect product shipments to start late 2011.

Another show hit was the new HILIO High Output light. The new fixture answers the need for an LED soft light capable of throwing illumination over a 20 to 25 foot (6 to 7.5 meter) distance. Hilio provides 5600K color balance light, utilizing a 6 x 12 array of 72 daylight LEDs that are focused to a 15° beam angle, with little spill to adjacent areas. The penetrating and highly directional 5600K light generated by Hilio makes it an ideal replacement for HMIs. It draws a paltry 125W, yet provides the luminance output of a 1000W conventional tungsten or 650W HMI. Plus, Hilio does not require restrike downtime before being re-illuminated. We are proud that the editors of TVB Europe and the IBC Daily gave Hilio TVB Europe's Best of IBC2011 Editors' Award.

Litepanels also introduced the CROMA, a versatile on-camera light for run-and-gun news shooters, event videographers, and still photographers who move rapidly from one light environment to the next. The sleek new Croma is like a small 1x1 Bi-Color, offering Litepanels' hallmark HD-friendly soft light, with variable color temperature output from daylight (5600K) to tungsten (3200K). Weighing barely 12 ounces, the Croma draws just 9W, and provides the equivalent luminance output of 40W – 90W traditional fixtures. The fixture, can power from either AA batteries or an included AC adapter. US audiences got a sneak peek of the Croma at DV Expo in Pasadena on September 21-22, where it received Digital Video's Black Diamond Award.