

## BBC Radio 1 Moves to Egton House – Summer 1985

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Two new Radio I continuity suites, K and L, came into service in April. They have been included in a new complex that has been built from a suite of offices in Egton House near BH. Each suite consists of a control cubicle with its associated studio in which a disc-jockey can take over the running of the network.

A special feature is a fibre optic link via the Egton House apparatus room to the main switching frame in BH. By means of a solid-state logic system a large number of outside sources can be switched through the fibre-optic link into programmes. Each suite has also access to fifteen cartridge machines, three EMT 950 gram decks and two compact disc players. It is the first time compact disc players have been included as an integral part of the desk itself.

The cubicle desk is a BBC Continued designed and built Maxicon DK2/25. It contains control panels for the microphone, the studio repro, the cubicle repro and outside source channels. There are six microphones; five for guest speakers coming up on a single sub-mixer and a separate microphone for the presenter, who can control all the microphones from the studio desk.

The studio repro panel gives control of six zero-level sources located in the studio. They can be in any combination of gram decks, cartridge players, tape decks or compact disc players. The cubicle repro panel duplicates the controls, which it can either override or delegate to the studio. The outside source panel provides access to ten stereo outside sources.



Four telephone balance units, UN 19/47, have inputs from two direct-exchange lines and two EBX lines.

These are fed into the continuity. The selection of outside sources is made by a QWERTY keyboard. A visual display shows whether the correct source is to line. Errors made when entering the source or destination information is corrected by logic in the system itself.

The apparatus room is unique in the large number of facilities it handles. It provides power supplies and technical services to both the Egton House and Langham Street premises. These include the programme presentation suite in which 'jingles' and trailers are produced, the gram library suite, the quality monitoring area, the RF broadband equipment and the continuity reception desk, with its video security cameras and monitors. The project took two and a half years to complete.

The continuities were built into an area which had previously been a suite of offices. Geoff Bottom of SCPD the project leader for the London Control Room and continuities had the overall responsibility for the area.

Although John Clarke of SCPD as project leader for the continuities K and L had day-to-day responsibility for them; he retired at Easter with their completion. He was assisted by SCPD engineers John Tidy and Kevin Wise. Tony Robinson of ACED was the architect principally concerned in designing and supervising the building work.