

• San Rafael, California studio Laughing Tiger recently hosted Aware/Columbia Records act Train, who were busy doing preproduction and songwriting for their new album *Drops of Jupiter*. While at Laughing Tiger, the band recorded and mixed five new songs including *Sometimes*, which was mixed by Ari Rios. *Sometimes* will be included on the upcoming re-release of Train's platinum-selling, self-titled debut album. All songs were tracked by Ari Rios and David Simon Baker and mixed by Ari Rios.

In other Tiger recording news, songwriter Rick Nowels and Darren Hayes, former lead singer of Savage Garden, booked the studio for a songwriting and preproduction session for Darren's upcoming solo album on Sony/CBS. Kent Maric engineered.

Laughing Tiger Productions.

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Mexico's DEMK debut

The luxurious International DEMK facility opens in Monterrey

International DEMK, a luxurious three-studio recording facility located north of Monterrey, Mexico, recently opened its doors, but only after much thought was put into the facility's acoustic design. The impressive facility features a Sony Oxford digital console, Westlake Audio monitoring systems and a plethora of quality outboard gear.

One of the facility's designers, Horacio Malvicino of the MBR Group, was first called in about two years ago to simply execute the vision of a facility.

"I really only had existing concrete shells and partitions to use as a starting point," says Malvicino. "I was stuck with all the existing wiring troughs, which were buried in concrete about a foot under the actual floors."

There were also several acoustical challenges that added to the obstacles presented by the physical infrastructure. "The big problem was the large main live room," explains Malvicino. "The ceiling is about 24 feet high with a glass-floored mezzanine. For a room that size, it's difficult to control reverberation time, plus



The Sony Oxford at Int. DEMK's main control room, they wanted a very light room. So, we put movable diffusers on the wall and designed modules that look like tri-fusers.

One solution that Malvicino found would work perfectly with the new studio was the use of Westlake monitors. "Glenn Phoenix [Westlake owner] is a mentor to me," comments Malvicino. "I've been using Westlake monitors for the last seven years."

Any design project presents its share of unique requirements, and International DEMK was no exception. "Obviously, most people want to optimize space," says Malvicino. "There are different proportions you can use to design a room. There is a certain zone I try to stay in. I have all my proportions for the various zones I use in a spreadsheet with a graph that lets me see how I'm doing immediately after I input data. I have something that looks like the green on a golf course. If you don't hit the green, you know you're in trouble."

Malvicino also noted that the ceiling height posed a challenge for implementing surround sound monitors. "In the control rooms, we had unusually high ceilings, so we had to bring down the surround," he says. "We also had to comply with the European Broadcast Union standard."

In addition to the facility's BBSM-10 monitors — three-way medium-power monitors with an internal high-level crossover — International DEMK chose Westlake's BBSM-15. Designed for soffit mounting, the BBSM-15 can also be used in a freestanding application with optional stands.



Cavazos comments on the choice of monitors: "Everybody knows about them. I've used them at other studios in the area, especially the Westlake 10s and 15s. They're known for achieving great results. They have very good definition in the mids, and the attention to every little detail is so great that it allows you to make small differences during the mix."

International DEMK

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Studio Condenser Microphones

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