



Photo shows, left to right Astera's Jesper Sorensen, Sebastian Bückle and Simon Canins

Astera's ingenious PixelBrick won a 2021 PLASA Award for Innovation – one of two lighting products out of the six 2021 winners selected from 29 entries – as the PLASA entertainment technology trade show returned to Olympia after a pandemic forced absence in 2020.

The judges commented, “this is not just another battery uplighter, but a well-engineered and thought-out lighting system augmented with a wide set of accessories.” They felt it would allow designers a greater degree of creativity in an assortment of lighting applications.

PixelBrick has been carefully crafted by Astera's talented R 'n' D team and is perfect for concerts, events, filming, or broadcast scenarios. It can also be utilised as a compact, light (1.1kg) and



exceptionally handy up-lighter or hung anywhere and become a universal light for accenting and texturing buildings or facades. For exterior use, its IP65 rating is resistant to rain and other elements. PixelBricks can be joined together to make all sorts of funky shapes and combinations! Astera exhibited on the booth of its UK distributor, Ambersphere Solutions. The PLASA event – one of the first industry expos to be staged ‘post’ pandemic – proved a busy and upbeat environment for people from across the industry to re-start, re-connect and finally meet again face-to-face as things start moving forward after an extremely tough period.

Astera’s sales & marketing director Sebastian Bückle revealed that many customers specifically asked to see the PixelBrick having already seen it online. “I think the industry understands that this is a game-changer and not just another LED spotlight,” he stated, adding that they were “delighted” to win the Innovation Award.

“This really means a lot to us, especially to our engineering team who’ve worked tirelessly on developing this great product.”

Also pumped about the result, Lee House from Ambersphere said, “It’s great that Astera has won another PLASA Innovation award. We stand behind these truly innovating companies and their products, and recognition from the industry is proof we are working with the best!”

Lee underlined that it’s flexibility that their customers generally look for in relation to Astera, including the complete range of neat accessories that are available for the PixelBrick which can further enhance creativity.

Talking generally about PLASA, Sebastian commented that “it was great to be back.”

Three people from the company’s Munich, Germany HQ attended and engaged in multiple high-quality conversations with lighting designers, technicians and other industry professionals. “The talks at PLASA were totally different from all the video calls and presentations, and from this comparison we see that trade shows clearly have a future,” said Sebastian, also observing that while PLASA was slightly smaller in physical size than before, “we had a constant flow of excellent customers to our booth.”

Lee adds that with new Astera products being shown for the first time at an expo, it was a great chance for people to see products “in the flesh rather than on a Zoom demo” and to meet the team behind them. “With a year’s gap in the show, it was clear that people were very eager to get back to work and reconnect with everyone”.

The PLASA Awards for Innovation are run in association with Lighting & Sound International (LSi) magazine and judged by a panel of industry professionals. They celebrate pioneering technologies and ideas utilising new materials or methods that increase safety, efficiency, creativity, and performance.

