Interview with Alexander Baranov, head of the Nevaton factory in St.Petersburg/Russia

Nevaton microphones are especially famous for vocal recordings. Why?

Nevaton follows the philosophy that a good studio-microphone can handle virtually all recording applications. In the time of creating a prototype the microphones are tested with all possible soundsources. Nevaton leaves a fokus on a linear frequency response.

Which advice do you have for people which want to buy a Nevaton microphon?

1) Understand for which application they need the mic.
2) Clear the financial aspect.
3) Professional experience
4) Recommendations from experienced soundworkers
4) Try-them-out in your own control room
5) Tune your ears

Who are your clients?

Historically they mainly came from the field of cinematography.
Actually all important big filmstudios in Russia including Lenfilm, Mosfilm but also Theatres and Operahouses like the Mariinskij theatre, Mussorgsky theatre, the St.Petersburg Philharmonic, the New Opera in Moskau and of course Studios, with some of the most well known sound engineers of Russia like Nikhulskij, Veprinceff, Kondrashoj...

Where are the advantages and disadvantages of producing microphones in Russia?

Advantages are
- many many years of research in the times of Soviet Union, which were financed by the government.
- the very rich theoretical background which exists
- enough material to work with
- mainly the unique and complex measuring facilities which Nevaton can use.
  Nevaton has the biggest anechoic measuring space which exists in Europe!
  Apart from that Nevaton has also a reverberation chamber and high end analog measuring equipement.

Disadvantages are
- unstable economic situation
- no economic experience
- no help from the government for scientistic research and industry.

Perspective?

Research in Psychoacoustic. Knowlegde about how the human brain is processing sound, to create a full system of acoustic illusions. Which microphone then would be used for that is hard to say.

You have the biggest anechoic chamber in Europe? Why?

This anechoic chamber was built 1989 as part of the Science Industrial Union Ecron, especially for the compartement which later on became Nevaton. At that time this was government financed. When Nevaton was found out of the rests of the Scientistic research laboratories, we decided to buy this room together with the Reverberation Chamber and we are using this rooms for measuring all parameters of the acoustic transmitters not less then two times each. We also work for other companies, which want to measure their products in that unique environment.

Philosophy?

Subjective fidelity of the microphone`s sound is more important then perfect technical parameters, which don`t proof the professionals in the same way as the sound-image, which is the goal of his work.

How new products are developed?

On the beginning stands the idea, which will be proofed by trying.
The first prototypes have to succeed in subjective experiments, then the best are selected and made perfect before they come to production.

Which new models we can expect?

Nevaton might launch a tube-mic