

International News

In-brief

● Plasa '93 breaks records

This year's Plasa Light and Sound Show surpassed all previous attendance figures with a final number of 9,465 visitors through the doors over the show's four days, representing an increase of 1,411 on last year. Of these 1,458 were from overseas.

● One-step autoconforming centre

North-London-based Sound Developments Studios have launched the first one-step overnight autoconforming service of digital multitrack sound and video in the UK. The facility is called The Conforming Centre. The Centre's system including Avid, Lightworks, Cuedes, Shotlister and Edit Master; and pictures are conformed in D3 or Betacam SP.

● Changes at Otari Europe

Following the formation of Otari Europe in February this year, by which sales and marketing has been integrated into a single location in Dusseldorf, Otari now announce the unification for service and parts supply to be also performed from the German base.

● Sabine issue technology patent

Sabine Musical Manufacturing Company were recently awarded a patent for its method of controlling feedback. The patent protects the advanced technology Sabine have developed for use in the company's products—the *FBX900 Feedback Exterminator* and the *ADF-1200/2400* workstations. Using DSP the products automatically detect feedback and precisely determine its frequency. Filters remove only the ringing frequency in less than 4 seconds and without changing sound quality.

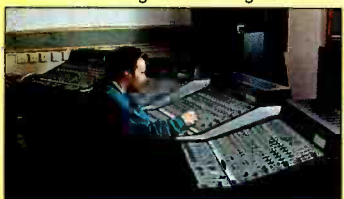
● Euphonix open more offices

As a result of increasing sales in the US, Euphonix have announced the opening of a New York sales and service office and a new office on Nashville's Music Row.

▼ Digital's Mr Fix-it moves

Digital Audio Technology, a leading digital audio hire company and commissioning consultant for Yamaha Digital Systems, are now operating out of a new studio in North West London.

The facility includes a 92m² control room, 250m² live recording room. They now operate four Yamaha *DMC1000* digital recording consoles.



Ian Sylvester of DAT with a Yamaha *DMC1000* console at Union Hall Studios

Historic Linkup

In an historic ISDN linkup, London's CTS studios joined forces with Barcelona's DUY to record a new Spanish musical, *Rejas*. Producer of *Rejas* (and MD of DUY), Rafael Duyos, wanted to involve a Spanish choir in the London-based recording, but chose an ISDN link as a cost-effective alternative to air travel. The choir worked to an ISDN-fed guide mix allowing interactive alterations to be made to both parts, as an alternative to overdubbing after the main recording.

The ISDN link was made over the *CDQ2000* system and the orchestra recorded to Sony *PCM3348* digital multitrack. The choir used DUY's *SSL ScreenSound* via *SoundNet* which was used to compensate for the transmission delay. The final mix took place in Barcelona on DUY's synched Yamaha *DMC1000* consoles.



The Tyrell Corporation have announced the sale of a Sonic Solutions CD PreMastering and NoNoise system to Sony Music Studios in London, formerly The Hit Factory. Tyrell have also supplied the studio with the Sonic Solutions Turbo and Super Bit Mapping options in addition to the *PRISM* Noise Shaping A-D convertor. Pictured are (left to right) Ray Staff, Mastering Engineer; Matthew Villa, Studio Manager; and Nigel Scott of Tyrell

Sensaura updates Binaural stereo

Central Research Labs (CRL), and R&D company within Thorn EMI, have launched what they are calling the most significant sound recording development since stereo. Its called *Sensaura Audio Reality*.

Like a lot of the recent stereo enhancement systems on the market *Sensaura's* natural dimensional recording system creates a sound field which extends beyond standard stereo speakers. *Sensaura* promises to allow the listener to identify the direction, height and distance of the sound.

Sensaura uses an 'artificial-head' as a basis for recording, with microphones incorporated in the auditory canals. The signals are equalised by the system to overcome the effect on tonal quality of the audio signals passing through two sets of ears (the artificial head's and the listener's).

Binaural recordings can be made by 'artificial-head' systems with microphones placed in the same canals. However these recording need tonal correction and cannot be mixed in a conventional manner as well as only being suited for headphone listening. With *Sensaura* the artificial-head signals are equalised to correct this tonal imbalance.

Sensaura provides the capability of mixing additional microphones along

with the artificial-head signals; the digital mixing stage then makes use of the relative positions of these microphones. The recording hardware is a multichannel DSP unit, controlled by a PC running proprietary software. External 20-bit A-D convertors are used together with 24-bit internal processing.

Producer Rupert Hine who has recently used the system said: 'For more than 12 years companies have been struggling to achieve the third dimension in sound, suffice to say that *Sensaura* is the first.'

Abbey Road corrects room electronically

Abbey Road's Sonic Solution equipped room has been acoustically treated by digital filtering and not physical treatments. The room, which is used for a wide range of mastering, remastering and editing work, has always had the problem of being slightly bass light. The Sigtech *AEC1000*, a powerful digital filtering system, was chosen by the studio as the most cost-effective solution short of a major rebuild.

Peter New of Abbey Road

explained: 'The room was never acoustically designed and being square does not lend itself to physical acoustic treatment. The room is definitely bass light and although I can automatically compensate for myself, clients are always asking for more bass. I can't just increase the bass as this then makes the bottom end woolly because the room is light at a particular frequency. The Sigtech system allowed precise compensation to the room and the difference is like night and day.'

Sigtech is available in the UK from Munro Associates. Tel: 071 379 7600.

BT helps DJs stay at home

British Telecom's ISDN has helped Quentin Howard, a presenter for Classic FM in the UK, to transform his living room into a studio for the first regular home broadcast by a major radio station.

ISDN enabled Quentin Howard to broadcast his 'Six of the Best Quiz' show live from Wiltshire, instead of travelling to Classic FM's studios in London. By using two ISDN lines, giving four channels, the presenter can play music, set the quiz and receive instructions from the studio and calls from listeners

simultaneously.

Quentin Howard commented: 'The advent of low-cost compact disc systems and digital audio computers, coupled with ISDN, is set to revolutionise the way radio stations operate. The future is definitely in digital audio broadcasting.' The compressed digital signal using the apt-X *DSMI 00* codec is sent via ISDN from the presenter's home to the studio for broadcasting to nearly five million listeners without the need for fibre-optic or satellite technology.

Hit Factory choose Audio Kinetics

UK manufacturer of synchroniser products Audio Kinetics have won a major order from the New York Hit Factory studios. The contract involves 21 *ES.Lock 1.11* synchroniser modules installed in a total of eight rooms in both the Hit Factory Broadway studios and the new Hit Factory Digital. The installation has passed its initial three month test, reducing maintenance time associated with machine control and sync problems from 30% to nearly 0%. Audio Kinetics won the contract on the basis of the market performance of the *ES.Lock* system, which is designed for complex multimedia and multimachine applications.

Ian Southern MD at Audio

Kinetics said 'The US market is clearly very significant for us and the Hit Factory contract coincides with our decision to raise our profile in the US market. In today's complex studio environments, we are seeing more and more situations where control systems simply cannot cope with the demands made of them. We are determined to demonstrate across the US that *ES.Lock*, which fully implements the ESbus standard, is really the only viable system capable of meeting the industry's stringent requirements for performance, reliability and functionality.'

AMS-Neve boost US

AMS-Neve North American distributor, Siemens Audio Inc are region-listing sales and service network and strengthening communications with AMS-Neve's head office in the UK.

Siemens Audio will be increasing staffing levels and office space in New York and LA which, together with the Toronto office, will form the main sales and service centres. Satellite offices at Chicago and Nashville will offer enhanced service facilities to customers in the central regions.

Siemens Audio President John Gluck explained: 'Given the large geographical spread and the increasing size of our North American customer base, a concentration of resources in the key areas is clearly imperative. In addition, we can only

further improve response times and general information flow to customers by allowing more open lines of communication between the regional centres and AMS-Neve's head office departments in the UK.'

APRS venture for AES

The APRS is organising a joint venture of UK exhibitors at the AES Convention to be held in Amsterdam next year from the 27th February to the 2nd March. This will offer the chance of a DTI subsidy for qualifying companies with products or services for the professional audio market.

Participants in the venture receive a subsidy from the Department of Trade and Industry which is around half of the cost of the exhibition stand. Companies which have not yet reserved a stand in Amsterdam should apply immediately to the AES organisers; and they should also advise the APRS if they wish to join the venture.

APRS. Tel: 0734 756218.

Fax: 0734 756216.

Synclavier claw back profits

The Synclavier Company, set up earlier this year after the demise of New England Digital, are showing signs of healthy business. The company have reported that they have surpassed their financial goals for the first quarter of operations, recording nearly \$1m in revenues from sales, services and upgrades, with net profits exceeding \$100,000. Company President Griffith W McRee attributed these strong financial results to a greater than anticipated demand for new *Synclavier* and *PostPro* systems, and the timely release of new product enhancement, such as *FastTrax* and *MegaRAM* storage and memory options.

McRee commented: 'This is a company owned by the owners and operators of *Synclavier* and *PostPro* equipment. They measure our performance not by the numbers, but by the quality of service and support we can provide. We are therefore managing this company for the long term, to assure our customers that their investment in technology will be preserved over years to come.'

Contracts

● Todd-AO buy five Fairlights

Todd-AO Glen Glenn have ordered five Fairlight *MFX-2* systems to be used during dialogue editing and mixing for feature film and episodic television postproduction. John Lanken, Fairlight's International Sales Manager was reported to be looking for a US West Coast distributor at the time of the New York AES Show.

● First Sennheiser go to Gradav

'Dry Hire' company, Gradav Theatre Services, have bought the first Sennheiser *EM203* UHF 3-channel switchable diversity receiver system in the UK. As a support company Gradav supply radio microphones to a large number of microphones to a large number of theatre companies, TV and film units as well as sub hiring to other hire companies.

● Logic 3 arrives in Ireland

Telegael are currently putting the finishing touches to Dubbing Suite 2, a new studio which will feature an *AudioFile* with a *Logic 3*. Increased demand for Telegael's sound dubbing expertise, particularly with the imminent arrival next year of a new Irish language TV channel, has prompted the expansion of facilities.

● Eastern Acoustic Reworks

In a recent article on Harman International's purchase of AKG, we mistakenly included Eastern Acoustic Works (EAW) of Whitinsville, Massachusetts in a list of Harman-owned manufacturers. EAW is a privately held company manufacturing professional loudspeaker systems. Harman UK is the EAW distributor for the UK, but EAW have no other business relationship with Harman.

▼ Snaptrax rejuvenates Denham

Snaptrax is a new audio postproduction company based at Denham film studios, outside London, which is regaining its importance as a centre for film and video production and postproduction companies. Chris Ackland one of the company's directors tested the SSL *ScreenSound* audio editing system and as a result Sanptrax has now bought two *ScreenSounds* and a *SoundNet* digital audio network. ■



DUY Studios in Barcelona (shown above) joined forces with CTS Studios in London in a ISDN linkup to record the choir for a new Spanish musical—see 'Historic Linkup'



Chris Ackland, Director of Snaptrax with the SSL *ScreenSound*