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Mayfair in receivership, Bauch to be broken up

LONDON, UK - Mayfair Recording Studios One and Two joined distributor FWO Bauch in administrative receivership in early February as the UK pro audio industry continues to come to terms with the UK recession.

Michael Bauch said in early March that the company would "be sold off in bits and pieces... not as a going concern," (see page 12).

Yet Mayfair is optimistic that it can set up a new company, restructure and find fresh investment from a third party according to joint managing director Kate Hudson.

"We have had great support from the record companies and I am convinced we shall go on," she said. "It could be a blessing in disguise."

Hudson's statement came after the banks had forced her and husband John to place one third of its three company set up into the hands of administrators Stoy Hayward. The two flagship studios operated under the company name of Ryemuse Ltd with Mayfair Mews and the recently opened Mayfair Village run under the separate company names of John Hudson Enterprises and Blue Taste respectively. These latter two operations are unaffected by the move.

According to Hudson, the decision of the bank to refuse to continue financing the studio is due to a "Credit crunch. I wanted to put all three complexes together, and share the administrative costs that are all currently lumped onto Rye-

muse across the other two studios. But the bank was not willing to take that option. It's scary. Within the banks it's a terminal problem. In the past they were so keen to lend money. But not any more," she explained.

Hudson also said that problems had been exacerbated by an old loan intact from the studio's earliest days which had further eroded the bank's confidence, coupled with ever increasing demands of clients for new pieces of equipment and the inability of companies supplying them to allow for more than five years finance.

"The studios were fully booked. But we would have been forced to trade illegally. So we chose this option," she concluded.

Joe Hosken



Funktionaries: Tony Andrews, John Newsham, Yann Favret and Toby Hunt (Pic: Mike Lethby)

Turbosound founders set up Funktion One

UK - Tony Andrews and John Newsham, founding partners in Turbosound and joint heads of its Research Department in Surrey, England, have left the company they started 18 years ago to set up an independent specialist audio consultancy - Funktion One.

Funktion One will be free of any exclusive ties to individual concerns. Under the agreement signed on 14 February with AKG, owners of Turbosound's holding company Edge Tech, the breakaway pair will retain their shareholding in Edge Tech, while Funktion One has a renewable one-year contract to oversee Turbosound's R&D programme.

The team will also continue to provide full backup to all Turbosound users including advice and practical assistance to system installers, and support for sound reinforcement hire companies and engineers working on tour and festivals with Turbosound sound systems.

The enterprise will be watched closely since the Andrews/Newsham team has been one of the most influential in SR over the past decade, putting Turbosound on a par with other

top SR system manufacturers such as EV, JBL, ShowCo and Clair Brothers.

The four former full-time staff of Turbosound's R&D unit will form the core of Funktion One, based at its existing Surrey premises.

Alongside Andrews and Newsham, pattern maker Yann Favret and Toby Hunt, in charge of engineering drawing and CAD work, complete the partnership. Andrews will focus, as before, on speaker design, while Newsham will extend his role as a consultant sound engineer and audio installations adviser.

The team intend to maintain close links with their large scale SR roots: its latest project with Turbosound - the Flashlight system - is currently on tour with Dire Straits and is also winning export sales. Andrews said: "If you can blend the arduous requirements of touring with an excellent sonic result, other types of installations are relatively easy."

AKG stated that it hoped and expected the new relationship to continue the expansion of Turbosound product worldwide.

Mike Lethby

'Air of secrecy' at 92nd AES

AUSTRIA - The 92nd AES Convention in Vienna on 24-27 March promises to be packed with surprises with many manufacturers including Neve, Studer, AMS, Sony, Tascam, Soundcraft, Yamaha and Klark Teknik looking likely to make important product announcements, previews and full scale introductions.

"I think the industry is starting to believe that it is

coming out of recession instead of just thinking it is" said Brian Whittaker, MD of Studer Revox UK, previewing a MADI equipped D820-48 recorder, a DAT machine and a music recording console at the four day event.

The Convention may well be remembered as a turning point. The air of secrecy that surrounds many of the new products suggest new

ground breaking technologies with digital prominent.

Speculation is rife that Yamaha is poised to enter the hard disk arena with a four track system called the CBX-D5. It will offer two channel simultaneous recording at 44.1kHz and 48kHz and four channel playback from a 100 Mbyte hard disk giving 10 minutes stereo.

Zenon Schoepe

CD-I Music format launched

BELGIUM - Another new CD format has been added to a fast expanding list: CD-I Music. The first disc to carry the new format name will be a Belgian jazz compilation from the Igloo label.

Produced in conjunction with record label Sowarex and mastering house Digipro Belgium, CD-I Music promoters, International CDI (Creative Digital Image), which is based in Charleroi, is enthusiastic about the interactive potential of the format.

Each disc can be used as a conventional audio CD (when played on either a CD-I or standard CD player) with written information displayed against a graphic background. In this mode it

is possible to include synchronised lyrics, biographical material and/or credits for example as is the case with conventional CD audio discs.

When the disc is used in conjunction with a CD-I player however, additional graphics, artist photographs, interviews, press reviews and discographical extracts can be independently accessed. Additional sound data is also possible and a control panel can be displayed on a television screen.

Carl Snape