

represented product category. Manufacturers from both sides of the Atlantic are offering steadier images, improved colour, and, generally speaking, greater adaptability for club use.

Switzerland-based ACR had a lot of show-goers buzzing with talk about its laser demo shows and its new products. The firm introduced the Clublaser, a compact multi-colour laser system; the Lasergraph 10, an updated laser graphics computer; the DAG, a digital read only laser show player.

The laser show player was developed out of the existing ACR Automated Recording System, an accessory enabling the perfectly synchronized recording and playback of entire light/laser and sound shows. Now club owners can save the time and money involved in creating their own laser shows by buying ACR's pre-recorded laser shows on video cassette. The club owner can just pop in a cassette, which controls lasers, fog, screen, sound—the entire show. ACR has 40 show tapes so far, and more are in the making.

After two years in development, Laser-

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media showed ColorRay<sup>2</sup>. It's cogent light creates sharp, high-resolution beams that move with laser-like speed and change colour in an instant. Because cogent light is created by state-of-the-art fiberoptic technology instead of lasers, audiences can safely be scanned. The ColorRay<sup>2</sup> controller includes 40 pre-programmed looks and can be easily programmed for custom sequences. In a rotating plane, colours are scanned at such a high speed that they can be blended to create unusual colour combinations.

The use of microprocessors in lighting controllers is more widespread. I noticed that Fly's new Topfly line uses DMX protocol. And Light Processor had a well thought-out booth that allowed the show-goer to try her/his hand directly on the boards.

Rosco and Le Maitre both had a strong presence at the show. Rosco debuted the

4500 fogger, which has three heat exchanges-in-one. With remote and variable output, the 4500 delivers very dry, cool fog.

Equipment aside, SIB/MAGIS held several seminars, including "Lighting and Electronic Photography in Entertainment," "New Light Sources in Entertainment," and "Discotheques of the 90's."

Jerry Gilbert of *Disco & Club* magazine moderated this last panel. As far as Gianni Fabbri and other Italian club owners are concerned, the end is at hand for high-tech discos. Fabbri, owner of Pardisco and Pascia, sees the future in more luxurious surroundings, with technology used in the subtlest of ways. This trend toward quieter, living-room style clubs (sparked by Nell's in New York City) already has spread across the US. The question remains: if that's the trend in Europe, too, what's to happen to the plethora of flash and whiz-bang lighting equipment manufacturers?

SIB/MAGIS 1990 will be held 1 - 5 April at the Rimini Trade Fair Center.

## **SIEL 89 a disco hit**

BY ELLEN LAMPERT

The seventh annual edition of SIEL — the Salon International de l'Equipement des Lieux de Loisir et de Spectacle — was held under cold rainy skies in Paris (9 - 12 April 1989) but the weather didn't seem to dampen the spirit of the more than 18,000 visitors who attended this year's salon. Paired with the fourth annual Salon du Théâtre, this event featured 250 exhibitors, 90% of which were French, thereby minimizing the international impact that such a salon might have. However, many of the French exhibitors were the local distributors for foreign products, so the equipment line-up was actually more international than the exhibitor roster, and included a wide-range of sound

and lighting equipment for both disco and theatrical markets.

Among the firsts at SIEL 89 worth noting were the introduction of Vari\*Lites, which made their first appearance at SIEL; the first hands-on look at AVAB's new Expert lighting board; a new speaker system from Bose; and a new Rosco fog machine.

The Vari\*Lites display, under a red, white, and blue replica of the Arch de Triumph, attracted a great deal of attention. Although the system generated much excitement, many of the lighting designers and technical directors felt that automated lights are still too expensive to be considered for their purposes. It is clear, however, that moving lights are the next wave in French lighting, especially in the rock and roll and disco venues.

One of the booths which was extremely busy throughout the show was the combined Robert Juliat/AVAB booth. In an attractive bi-level installation with AVAB director's chairs at the lighting controls, AVAB introduced its new Expert lighting board. Clas Malm, who came from Sweden to represent AVAB, feels that SIEL offers a good opportunity to meet the network of Juliat agents who represent AVAB products in France. "They know everybody," he said. SIEL also offered him a chance to meet AVAB's French customers. According to Malm, the Expert is the first in a revolutionary new generation of boards incorporating MIDI controls. In France, the AVAB boards are sold as part of a package with Robert Juliat lights.

Of the British lighting companies represented, Lee Colortran introduced its new range of Windsor luminaires, with their inventor Joe Thornley explaining their modular concept. Keith Dale of Celco reported that SIEL 89 was extremely successful for the company. "This was the first time we had our own stand at SIEL," says Dale, "and we actually took orders, which is unusual. These shows are usually just good for public relations."

Strand Lighting was not represented at SIEL 89, but their competitors were unwilling to speculate as to why.

In the disco lighting area, the most popular displays were those of Coemar, from Italy, and Sapro, from France. The news in disco lighting is laser light systems which feature 100, 250, and 400 watt projectors with different options ranging