

## back to road

### Trade News

#### Celco all change

Celco have taken on their own distribution in the US in a joint arrangement with Canadian distributors Novatec. The deal was cemented at PLASA. Also appointed as a sub distributor is California-based TMB Associates. +44 (0) 1322 282218.

#### A&H win NatWest award

Allen & Heath have been announced as South region winners of the NatWest/FT Export Excellence Awards. Allen and Heath's workforce numbers over 100 at their Penryn factory which has been the company's base since 1983. +44 (0)181 207 5050

#### EAW in the UAE

EAW International has appointed Gearhouse Systems as exclusive distributor for their professional audio products in the UAE. +44 (0) 1494 539090.

#### Tomcat opens UK plant

Tomcat UK Ltd was introduced at PLASA 96 to produce and sell Tomcat trussing and related products in the UK and Europe. The company will be based in Evesham, Worcestershire: +44 (0) 1386 48888.

#### New catering band

Band of Aprons are a new touring catering company headed by Caroline Birthwright of Stanbridge Residential Studios. Birthwright has worked in the music industry for several years and has earned a reputation for "superlative cuisine and hosting good parties". +44 (0) 1444 401996.

#### Deltron over subscribed

Trading in Deltron Electronics PLC kicked off on the Stock Exchange with the offer being twice over-subscribed. Shares opened at 165 - 170 pence per share - a 10% gain on the placing price of 150p. +44 (0) 181 965 4222.

#### Amateur success

BT and The National Federation of Music Societies (NFMS) celebrated the major success of their 'Making More of Music' event last month. Over £200,000 of sponsorship has enabled 18,000 training opportunities within the voluntary music sector. +44 (0) 171 828 7320.

#### Boardwalk upgrade

Manchester's Boardwalk has had a major system upgrade. New gear includes a Soundcraft 32 channel monitor desk, C-Audio amplifiers, drum fill and several bi-amped wedges to give up top 8 on-stage mixes. FOH is a new Soundcraft Spirit 8 Bus 32 channel console. +44 (0) 161 228 3555.

## Britannia Row recruits two

Britannia Row Productions has signed up two experienced tour services names.

Mike 'Bunny' Warren, former FOH sound engineer with Take That and Status Quo, among others, is a particular coup; with his wealth of contacts, he expects to bring new business to the company. He commented: "It was the right offer at the right time. I'll be looking to introduce new clients while helping to service the existing ones."

Helen Smith also joined BRP at the end of September after five years with Nick Levitt and Sophie Ridley at GP Presentation - latterly as production assistant alongside Levitt on the Simply Red tour. She previously worked with Berryhurst.

"The proposal came out of the blue during the Oasis show at Knebworth and the timing was right," she said. "After Simply



Red's tour, the GP office in London was due to close down and relocate to Ireland where Nick and Sophie live." Mike's duties will be of a technical nature, while Helen will handle administrative detail.

BRP's autumn schedule is headlined by Cliff Richard's *Heathcliff*, an MTV special with George Michael and pan-European tours with The Cure, Jamiroquai, Manic Street Preachers, Pearl Jam, The Chemical Brothers and Joaquim Cortez.

+44 (0)181 877 3949

## George Michael Unplugs on SM24s



Two Soundcraft SM24s were recently used as monitor consoles on George Michael's MTV *Unplugged* concert, which will be broadcast by MTV Worldwide and BBC Radio 1 in early December.

An invited audience of 450 was treated to a stunning set from the singer, backed by an 11-piece band and 8-piece string section. The two 40-channel SM24s were linked to provide 72 input channels feeding 26 stereo mix outs. Said monitor engineer Aden Gregory: "The beauty of using the SM24s was the ease of linking them, thanks to the 'intelligent link' system, and the fact that there was no desk noise - which was particularly important with the amount of in-ear monitoring we were running. The concert really was unique in so far as the logistics of monitoring were concerned - and on a gig like this the last thing I need to worry about is the gear."

+44 (1707) 665000

## Space Cannon Devils warn drivers off the murky road to Florence

Italian searchlight manufacturers Space Cannon (of Fubine, Alessandria) supplied several of their powerful fixtures to illuminate Florence during G7 meetings held there recently. The units in question - six Space Cannon One C.S. 7000W, one S.C. Four 7000W and four Target 2000W, were installed at the ancient gateways to the city, and their powerful beams set to meet in the sky over the city's basilica.

But the Northern Italian firm hit the headlines recently for a more unusual use of its fixtures, again in Florence. Due to an alarming rise in smog levels at certain periods of the year, local authorities have decided to block motor vehicle access to the city centre when a certain level of ozone is reached in the air. To forewarn drivers of this veto, Florence's Town Councillor for traf-

fic, Amos Cecchi, recently hit on a spectacular idea. He had the council take delivery of three 7000W Xenon-powered Space Cannon Black Devils, which have been installed by SILFI, the city's lighting board, at strategic points around Florence.

When the 'veto' level of ozone is reached, the Black Devils' 360-degree pan movement is set and the beams fired into the sky above Florence, warning would-be commuters that they must leave their vehicles on the outskirts of town the following day - or use public transport. The units were chosen after testing and ensuring that as well as being highly visible, would not disturb traffic at the local airport.

Space Cannon: Regione Belvedere +39 131 772288

■ Mike Clark

## Stardraw 2D Version 2 launched

Starlight Systems Technology has released an upgrade to the Stardraw 2D CAD package - Version 2. Additions to existing features include 'drag-and-drop' symbols, drawings and OLE 2.0 objects from other applications, instant start-up, faster and easier reporting, multiple undos and redos, dockable and sizeable toolbars, editing symbols that are part of other symbols, and support for thousands of libraries. An external database has also been added to this version.

Users can link symbols to data stored in an external database or spreadsheet. Programmes supported include MS Access, MS Excel, MS FoxPro, Borland Paradox, SQL Server and Oracle.

+44 (0)171 511 4400

## Orbital's XTA DP200s

Orbital, the London-based theatre and conference sound rental company, has acquired six XTA Electronics DP200 processor units and GQ600 stereo graphic EQ units.

Chris Headlam-Morley, Orbital MD, said: "Our engineers love the DP200s because they combine a powerful delay line, eight-band parametric EQ and limiting in an easy-to-programme box, and high sound quality that can't always be taken for granted with digital processors. They offer excellent EQ 'for free' whenever a delay line is used."

First contracts for the new XTA kit were the Lindsay Kemp tour and the Birmingham Motor Show. +44 (0)1299 879977