

AUDIORENT



CONCERTSOUND



## Press release

Aesch, December 2008

### Concert Sound joins the Audio Rent Clair Group

Audio Rent Clair, Europe's leading touring audio supplier, and UK-based Concert Sound have joined forces.

Both companies have long histories in the tour sound and contracting segments of the professional audio market and have co-operated on many events in the past, most notably on tours and one-off events with Sir Paul McCartney, Mark Knopfler and Tina Turner.

Jürg Hügin, Chairman of the Audio Rent Clair board, comments, "The opportunities for both companies that became apparent when we started talking have made this such an obvious move for us. Our clients have asked us for increased flexibility and we have been able to answer in a way that extends our in-house skills base even further, as well as adding logistical benefits. It's a great situation for everyone!"

As part of the Audio Rent Clair group, Concert Sound Clair will maintain its own identity and commercial operation. Both companies expect to use the synergies of the newly expanded group, which includes lighting and video rental, to further their ability to deliver outstanding service for their clients. Concert Sound's current management team and staff will remain in place, working in partnership with their-Swiss based colleagues.

Commenting on the move, Concert Sound Clair's Managing Director Tim Boyle stated, "I am excited about the new products and services we can bring to our clients and also for the new opportunities that will arise for every member of the team, both here and in Switzerland."

Audio Rent Clair's 90,000 square foot warehouse in Aesch, located in the heart of Europe, will remain the main hub for the European Clair touring inventory. Meanwhile, Concert Sound Clair's presence close to London gives access to proprietary Clair products and services for UK-based clients.

The addition of Concert Sound Clair as part of the worldwide group allows for an even higher level of support and service for Clair clients and underlines the group's continued commitment to meeting the needs of the modern touring market.

With nine locations spanning four continents, the Clair group aims to truly deliver consistency and back-up, whilst remaining at the forefront of technology, clearly demonstrated by the recent introduction of new PA systems and significant investment in control and amplification packages.

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Emphasising the importance of the European expansion, Troy Clair, President and CEO of Clair stated, "Having Concert Sound as part of the Clair group is much more than a logistical move. It is the culmination of a close working relationship and friendships that stretch back many years. Time and again the UK team has demonstrated its commitment to service and pushing the industry forward. As such, it is a natural fit into our organisation and we are excited by what it can add."

Barrie Marshall, Chairman of Concert Sound, commented, "I have been extremely proud of the remarkable team and achievements at Concert Sound over the years. I am delighted that we are able to join forces with Troy Clair and his team, whom we have admired for many years - it is a perfect fit. I will step back as Chairman from the end of the year, but remain a Director of the Board".

Both companies are looking forward to the new prospects and opportunities starting in January 2009, when the Clair presence in the UK becomes operational.

### **Audio-Rent Clair-Brothers AG**

*Celebrating almost 30 years of bringing world-class service to artists, production companies and concert venues, Audio-Rent Clair-Brothers is one of Europe's premiere resources for professional audio, lighting and video in the touring and corporate business.*

*Together with CLAIR, the company has been proud to offer an unparalleled level of expertise and quality through the global delivery of innovative service, sound, and support for our clients. CLAIR represents the highest quality product for the artists who respect and depend on our brand and the millions of individuals who experience the CLAIR sound at live shows across the world. We are only as good as our last show, and excellence is the only option. That is the CLAIR way.*

### **Concert Sound Ltd.**

*Concert Sound can trace its roots back to the late sixties, when a small band of committed individuals found their services increasingly in demand by up and coming artists. Formalised under the name Concert Sound Ltd in 1977, the company continued to grow as new artists recognised the skills and passion for excellence that represented the core values of the team.*

*As the artists saw their careers grow, so Concert Sound expanded its capabilities and became a worldwide name within the audio industry. With a client roster that has covered acts from The Clash to Dean Martin and included numerous tours and worldwide support for Eric Clapton, Mark Knopfler, George Harrison and Annie Lennox, Concert Sound heads into its fourth decade as one of the most respected UK-based hire companies.*

### **Additional information:**

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