

UA to develop for AMS Neve

American company to write software emulations of 'classic' processors from UK console manufacturer

US/UK: Universal Audio, the California-based software and hardware developer, has announced a trademark licensing agreement with the UK's AMS Neve. Under the terms of the deal, announced at the recent NAMM show, UA will develop plug-in software emulations of Neve signal processors for their UAD-1 DSP Card and Powered Plug-Ins system. The first product to be launched under the new agreement will be the 'classic' Neve 1073 EQ.

"Neve is a brand synonymous with landmark recording equipment innovations and some of the best sounding consoles and audio hardware designs of the past 40 years," says Matt Ward, president of Universal Audio. "To say we are excited about having the opportunity to bring these time-honored classics and the Neve brand to the DAW world and our UAD-1 user base would be an understatement. It is truly an honour to have a company as esteemed as Neve entrust us to create software emulations of their classic products."

"The Neve sound is the most sought after in the world," says Tom Misner, Neve's president, "Its availability as plug-ins will complement the range of Classic and New Classic Neve Outboard Units." Simon Daniels, product marketing manager at Neve adds, "Universal



AMS Neve Inc's Hart (left) and UA's Ward

Audio has a demonstrated ability to create extremely accurate emulations of classic signal processors. We are confident that Universal Audio will develop the Neve plug-ins with the skill necessary to maintain and strengthen Neve's outstanding reputation."

John Hart, president of AMS Neve Inc, puts it this way: "I think we nailed it to a company that has the right stuff to do it."

In other news, Universal Audio has announced the forthcoming web launch of v4.2 software for the UAD-1 & Powered Plug-Ins system. Version 4.2 will include a 14-day demo of another classic, the Roland RE-201 Space Echo. ❑

DAVE ROBINSON

WEB ❑ www.uaudio.com, www.ams-neve.com

500 Meyer boxes to Germany

EXCLUSIVE: Meyer Sound has clinched the sale of one of its biggest-ever equipment packages – and possibly one of the largest by any pro-audio manufacturer – to Germany's Westfalen Sound. Around 500 loudspeakers, over 100 of which are MICA compact high-power curvilinear loudspeakers, plus processors and flying gear, are being delivered to the rental giant's Emsdetten HQ. The first batch arrived in time for a two-month tour of German-speaking territories by Austrian star Udo Jürgens.

The sale marks the first time that Westfalen, a long-time L-Acoustics user, has purchased Meyer kit.

Following a recent visit to Meyer's California HQ, Westfalen CEO Carl Cordier commented, "Touring the factory and meeting with John and Helen Meyer convinced me that Meyer Sound continues to create superior, sophisticated technologies that will enable us to better serve our clients."

As well as the MICA boxes, introduced last year and already becoming very popular in Europe, the Westfalen cache includes CQ-1 wide coverage loudspeakers, UPA-1P compacts and UM-1P narrow coverage stage monitors, plus a number of Galileo digital processors.

Local support to Westfalen will be provided by Meyer Sound Germany and Meyer's Munich-



Westfalen Sound's Carl Cordier with a tiny fraction of the Meyer Sound package

based tech support representative, Thomas Mundorf.

Westfalen Sound is a division of the POOL Group, a network of event planning and production companies based in Emsdetten, Germany. The

POOL Group's clients include artists like Plácido Domingo, Andrea Bocelli, and Ricky Martin. ❑

DAVE ROBINSON

CONTACT ❑ WESTFALEN SOUND

EMAIL ❑ info@westfalen-sound.de



Mobile phone RF hassle: tackled at last

Pro-audio manufacturers get the message

Developers finally address the long-running problem of mobile phone RF interference, writes *David Davies*

WORLD: Until recently, the impact of mobile phone RF interference upon the professional sound world had been unavoidable and frequently infuriating. Now a clutch of new launches from leading suppliers – among them Bosch, Neutrik, Audio-Technica and Rohde & Schwarz – promises to address this issue, with benefits for the entire pro-audio sector.

"It is a very serious problem – serious enough for us to have invested over two years of work and huge R&D expense," con-

firms Audio-Technica's sales director, Tony Cooper. "The general RF 'noise floor' is rising around the world and the problem will only get bigger as portable devices become more popular."

Norbert Nachbauer, marketing director at Neutrik AG, concurs. "It is the case that more and more mobile phones are being used on stage and in the studio. Customer feedback has shown that people are concerned about the issue."

Inevitably, the severity of the problem is dependent upon con-

text. Cooper believes that the cosseted studio environment poses no great cause for concern since "there is very little chance for strong RF interference". Wireless mics, meanwhile, are by their very nature designed to reject all but the desired RF signals.

No-one, however, is underestimating the importance of the issue within the installed sound market. Accordingly, Audio-Technica made RF immunity one of the key priorities in the redesign of its UniPoint range of professional installed

sound microphones. Whereas the company had historically addressed RF issues on a "case-by-case" basis, the revamped UniPoint marks a conscious attempt to make more sustained improvements, in large part based on comments made by end-users. Engineering-wise, Cooper says that the priority was "making sure the body of the microphone acted as a shielded enclosure. We then added extra shielding to all of the connectors and decoupled all of the shield (*continued on p47*)