

simple convenience Sony has employed digital audio and near broadcast quality video and graphics in a wide range of products.

Central is a PC-based software package, the Mammoth Tools System, for in-house production of multimedia programmes and mastering for CD-ROM XA (Xtended Architecture format).

At a price of £10,000 (less PC) the software/hardware allows PCM audio capture, editing and selection of data compression to desired quality together with similar

functions for motion video and graphics. The completed work can then be synchronised and interleaved for CD-ROM mastering, something that previously would have required a specialist house. This system originates from the US Mammoth company with Sony as sole distributor.

Other products from the division include a Hi-8 recorder/player for graphics with PCM audio; a laser video disc recorder for still, motion and animated graphics with PCM audio; a high quality digital colour

existing text and images available in the DD-1EX. The Data Discman is a CD-ROM player about the size of a portable CD player with flip-up LCD screen. Sales of the original model, which uses three inch CD ROMs to hold 100,000 pages of text or 32,000 visual images, were very high.

An increasing range of Electronic Books (EB Software makes this product the nearest thing to portable multimedia until the launch of CD-I portable in Europe next year.

Keith Spencer - Allen

manufacturer BETA has appointed Ohm Industries as exclusive UK distributor. The range majors on power amps, mixers and graphic EQs. +44 (0)565 664641.

GERMAN STAND manufacturer Konig & Meyer has notched up one million sales worldwide for its KM210/2 mic boom stand introduced 25 years ago.

KEY AUDIO SYSTEMS has taken over UK distribution of GEM's S2 and S3 'super-synths' from Bluebridge Music, and has reduced prices by around 15 per cent. Bluebridge continues to handle other GEM products. +44 (0)245 344001.

THE UK'S MUSIC Publishers Association has moved, to: 3rd Floor, 18/20 York Buildings, Strandgate, London WC2N 8JU. +44 (0)71 839 7779.

MAKING MUSIC, THE free monthly musician's magazine has launched 'Musical Instrument Research Bulletin', a monthly appraisal of market activity for the MI trade. Claimed as a first in providing such detailed market analysis, MIRB expands on Making Music's regular Buyer's Bible of best selling products, providing a "detailed and comprehensive" guide to sales activity across 12 product categories. The report gives a one-to-15 placings chart for each category, plus month-on-month comparisons and sales commentary based on feedback from 150 UK retailers. +44 (0)71 251 1900.

RAY DOLBY, FOUNDER of the legendary Dolby Labs, received a Gold Medal at last month's AES. The award is in recognition of his outstanding contribution to sound reproduction. Other awards went to Daniel Gravereaux for his role in the advancement of the AES and Robert O. Fehr who edited the AES Journal from 1969-91.

## MacLennan launches ambisonic user group

UK - A user group has been started for people involved with ambisonic and B-Format recording. Its initial objectives are to exchange information and to encourage others to investigate the format's possibilities.

Group founder Donald MacLennan said that since he suggested the idea some months ago, more than 60 people had contacted him, "from mathematicians and scientists to engineers like myself".

Ambisonics and B-Format recording were first developed more than 20 years ago as a way of providing a more realistic sound field than the

conventional stereo format.

Until now, the idea has been slow to catch on but MacLennan said that the situation could change. "The time has come where people can really work in B-Format because multitrack formats are becoming more common."

New formats with multitrack potential include Nagra D, professional digital video recorders and High Definition television, which could be the domestic breakthrough. MacLennan conducted his initial field recordings using two Fostex D20s in synchronisation.

Although B-Format



Donald MacLennan: 'contacted by 60 people'

recording and ambisonic encoding requires multitrack, it is entirely compatible with mono and stereo playback, where it retains a certain amount of spacial enhancement. The effect requires an ambisonic decoder and a four speaker playback system. Tel: +44 (0)752 663229. Simon Croft

accommodate laser disc mastering in this area have been shelved due to Pioneer's decision to manufacture PAL discs in the US. Harries estimated that once Lyndhurst Hall is established up to 50 per cent of its work could be sound for picture based.

However, Air is still keen to retain links with the past and the Rear Hall is being viewed as a replacement for the Studio 1 at Oxford Circus, sharing similar dimensions, acoustics and the original Neve console.

Currently being completed are the reception area, restaurant and games room which connect to the main building via an atrium. The residential areas are now complete offering five attic bedrooms with ensuite bathrooms/shower rooms, and at the front of the building parking is being provided for up to 20 cars.

Lyndhurst Hall will expand Air's operation by 40-50 per cent, and staffing levels are being increased accordingly from 21 to around 30. Patrick Stapley

## Air Lyndhurst's set for 13 Dec opening

LONDON, UK - After two years and a cost exceeding £10m, Air Lyndhurst Hall is finally nearing completion. December 13 will see the first official booking: a concert in the Main Hall organised by George Martin in aid of the Prince's Trust.

Overall booking enquiries are said to be very encouraging stretching as far ahead as December 1993, with an undisclosed "name" band booking two months to remix a live album in the SSL-equipped Studio 2 from mid-January.

The complex will open in phases with the Main Hall, Studio 2 and the post production floor taking priority, while the Rear Hall, Studio 3 and the two mastering rooms, one of which features a Sonic Solutions system, will follow shortly afterwards. Full completion of the complex is forecast for April next year, and to

ensure deadlines are strictly met, the in-house design/building company Macademy, has recently tripled its workforce.

The first of two AMS Logic 2 consoles has been delivered to Air's existing Oxford Circus premises where it has received a positive response while awaiting installation into Lyndhurst Studio 3.

"It's absolutely fantastic," enthused group technical director Dave Harries, "everything that AMS said they'd do has been done. We used it on a job for the BBC and things couldn't have gone smoother - after 19 hours of mixing they finished dead on time and spot on budget."

The second Logic 2 is destined for the post production floor where ex-Thames Television dubbing engineer, Cliff Jones, will be in control. The original plans to