

Philips Veteran Timmer To Be Honored At MIDEM

PARIS—Jan Timmer, president of the Philips electronics conglomerate, will be feted as Man of the Decade at MIDEM, Jan. 20-24, the 25th anniversary of the annual international music industry meet in Cannes.

The honor is being bestowed upon Timmer in recognition of his long and distinguished career

'Timmer has so transformed music with innovations such as the CD'

within the Philips organization. He joined in 1952 and progressed through various executive posts, becoming managing director in 1981 and then president of PolyGram International in London in 1983.

During his tenure at PolyGram, Timmer restructured the entire operation and transformed its performance by, among other things, overseeing the widely successful introduction of the compact disc. PolyGram now ranks as one of the world's three

largest recorded-music groups.

In September 1987, Timmer became chairman of Consumer Electronics, the largest product division of Philips. He was appointed president of Philips and chairman of the board of management and the group management committee July 1 this year.

MIDEM chief executive Xavier Roy comments, "I felt that it was particularly appropriate at a time when MIDEM will be looking back at past achievements in the music industry as well as looking forward with great optimism to the future that the Man of the Decade should be the person who has so transformed music by such technological innovations as the CD and laserdisc."

MIDEM has named an outstanding personality in the international music industry as Man of the Year for the past two years. The first recipient, in 1989, was the late Nesuhi Ertegun (in whose memory the award is now named), and the 1990 accolade went to Quincy Jones.

Timmer will receive his award Jan. 23 at a dinner to be attended by 200 prominent members of the international music industry at the Moulin de Mougins restaurant.

EMI Opens New London Recording Studio

LONDON—EMI Music Publishing has opened a major new recording complex here for the exclusive use of songwriters signed to the company. The cost of the project is put at nearly \$200,000.

The complex is set in what was the one-room basement of the SBK Songs building in London's West End. There are now three sections, including a 24-track recording studio and a 16-track preproduction and programming suite.

The studios, already in operation, are an extension of the EMI Music Publishing A&R division, set up to provide the fullest sup-

port for new signings and to link closely with musicians throughout the recording process.

Running the project as studio manager is former free-lance musician/engineer John Bell, who says, "We're already getting good feedback from musicians using the place. They say they're getting an environment where they benefit from top-quality recording standards without feeling pressured by the clock. It creates the right atmosphere between songwriters and musicians."

The main studio has a new Quartz 48-channel soundtrack

desk linked to a 24-track Studer recorder.

Peter Reichardt, managing director of EMI Music Publishing (U.K.), says, "I'd defy anyone to name a publishing house here which is doing more for its contract writers. We believe writers should be able to work in the best possible atmosphere, and providing that environment is our responsibility. We're confident the top-20 hits will start flowing from our studio productions."

Currently booked into the complex are D-Mob, the House Of Love, Paul Johnson, and Everyday People.

Brazil Eagerly Awaits 1st Taste Of MTV Nationwide B'casts Of Music Network Begin Oct. 21

BY PAUL KLEINMAN

SAO PAULO, Brazil—The building once occupied by the already extinct TV Tupi, Brazil's first television station, which started transmission in 1950, is undergoing a spectacular "face lift" to accommodate this nation's newest network, MTV.

Put together by Editora Abril, the biggest editorial group in Latin America, holder of the MTV rights for South America, the Brazilian broadcast of MTV starts here nationwide on Oct. 21.

A major advertising campaign with

the slogan "Oh Yes, Nos Temos MTV," or "Oh Yes, We Have MTV," has clearly captured the imagination of millions of young Brazilians eagerly awaiting launch date.

In a country where cable television has not developed successfully, MTV will not operate on the same lines as its U.S. counterpart. Local VHF (as in Rio) and UHF (as in Sao Paulo) stations will transmit the programming originated in Sao Paulo and fed via satellite on the Brazilsat II.

The signal will be in stereo, still virtually unknown in Brazil, as Embratel, the state-owned telecommunications company, has finally allowed this format on its satellite.

MTV-Brazil's programming will be similar to that of MTV divisions elsewhere, aiming primarily at the 15-29-year-old age group. It will introduce Brazilian pop/rock sounds, known as MPB (Musica Popular Brasileira).

To counter the shortage of music videos featuring Brazilian artists and the lack of quality of those produced, MTV-Brazil will finance and produce three videos a month by Brazilian acts.

The current poor repertoire of Brazilian music video is described by MTV-Brazil's programming director as "a mentality problem—something we must change." He added, "We see our promotional role at the network as creating a situation where our videos are shown on the other MTV operations worldwide."

MTV-Brazil will launch with a 14-hour daily programming schedule on weekdays, switching to round-the-clock transmissions on weekends. The aim is full-week 24-hour scheduling by the middle of next year.

The programming will include a nightly half-hour newscast, primarily but not exclusively focused on inter-

Comforts Place Studios

L I N G F I E L D · S U R R E Y · E N G L A N D



A Magnificent Tudor Mansion home set in 6 acres of manicured English Country Gardens with Heated Pool and Tennis Court

Together with: a self contained 'State of the Art' Residential Studio Complex, established for over 5 years.

Ideally suited: as a luxury home for Artiste/Producer or operated as a profitable business — or both.

Offers invited: for the whole P.O.A. for further details contact:



Tel: 081 877 9488 (REF 1B) Fax: 081 877 9523 (REF 1B) or write to:
25, Blades Court, Deodar Road, Putney, London SW15 2NV

NEW S.E. ASIA PLANT SPINNING OUT CDS

(Continued from page 70)

ment's thrust in building a stronger global presence for goods made here."

General Magnetics, with roughly 5% of the total market, claims to be the world's largest manufacturer of C-zero cassettes. It exports widely to Japan, Europe, and the U.S., and is setting up a chain of sales offices around the world, the first in Bremen, Germany.

For the Pallas Group, the Singapore CD plant serves as a launch pad for expansion into the Asia-Pacific rim, as well as a means to augment the production capacity of its own operation in Germany. Rolf Neumann, P&O co-president and Pallas president, says: "Our business base is Singaporean commitment to higher technology plus German thoroughness and precision."

In phase one of the Singapore plant's operation, all studio work, mastering, and production of matrices will be handled by P&O Germany, though mastering operations will be started in Singapore soon.

The retail price of CDs manufactured locally will not be cheaper since market prices are comparatively lower here than in most other international cities that have higher import duties. Prices for the three main CD categories here are budget, \$8; mid-price, \$9.50; and full-price, \$13.30.

Oh Loon says CD imports will continue to be the mainstay of the sales action in Singapore. "Most record companies will still be with regular overseas sources for initial CD orders, using P&O facilities for repeat orders when supply falls short. We're gearing up to produce CDs up to the highest international standards but refined to meet specific customer needs," he says.

P&O accepts orders for "personal" CDs with a minimum 1,000 units. Its prices start at \$1.25 per unit, excluding a one-off \$900 payment to convert the sound to digital mode.

The company is also servicing Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, Hong Kong, and Taiwan.

Industry figures show that almost \$13 million worth of CDs were sold in Singapore last year, up 33% over 1988.

Though CD accounts for more than half of most of the majors' annual sales, there is some industry skepticism about local production. Says one marketing manager: "There is prejudice to overcome where local products are concerned."

P&O has an authorized share capital of \$550,000, with an initial capital investment of \$3.1 million. General Magnetics has a 49% stake in the company; the remainder is in the hands of the Pallas Group.