

Merkur product scorches IGE

The Merkur Sun ignited the London exhibition with new street-focused innovations

The latest figures from German gaming giant, the Gauselmann Group, saw total group revenues exceed €1bn in 2007, an increase on 2006 figures. Total business volume rose to €1.28bn with aggregate consolidated revenues of the different corporate divisions amounting to €1.056bn. Domestic and international business contributes around 50 per cent each to the total revenue. However, as a result of the new gaming regulations in Germany and the arrival of new international manufacturers, the Gauselmann Group has seen tough competition over the last year. Although it is still a leader in terms of AWP's and amusements on a national level, new market entrants have impacted upon machine sales. In response to the dynamic changes affecting its domestic market, and to support its 200 Merkur Spielothek arcades in Germany and almost 100 Merkur Casino entertainment centres across Europe, the company has launched a product assault on the street/electronic casino marketplace. The company presented its range of international AWP products at the IGE show recently including the Games Unlimited range for international markets. The multi-game enables operators to select one of two different game packages with mystery features and free games. The game is housed in the WB4 casino cabinet, is TITO enabled and is also available as a video kit. Merkur Gaming launched Games Unlimited II, the second Games Unlimited game package with six exciting games for international markets. "Games Unlimited II contains classic games as well as casino-style games with high class video animations and a passion for detail. We are convinced that every player will find his favourite in this wide range of games for unlimited pleasure," described Merkur Gaming's Susanne Wesemann. In addition to the Games Unlimited range, Merkur Gaming also presented its Merkur Dispenser 100 recycler as the must-have product for modern cash management. This innovative product offers high customer service with the ability to accept up to six bank notes and dispense three different types of bank notes, while requiring a minimum amount of space. The bank notes are gently rolled onto storage belts measuring a total length of 15.90 metres. Various sensor systems control the position of the bank note reel at all times and ensure that the dispenser works smoothly and securely. "We have sold



The Merkur Gaming stand at IGE featured a range of new products, though the highlights were Games Unlimited and the Merkur Dispenser 100 recycling unit.

more than 20,000 Merkur Dispenser 100 units in Germany in just 12 months," stated Ms. Wesemann. "This volume reflects the high-quality standard as well as the absolute customer orientation of the Gauselmann Group with more than 50 years of experience in the entertainment and gaming world."



TAB-Austria showed its gaming face at IGE show

TAB-Austria presented its range of gaming terminals at the IGE show with emphasis on its Golden Island brand. The company now has several models available including the Golden Island Nevada, Cosmo, Strato Steel and VC2. The Nevada comes with a unique cabinet shape and houses five different games, including two video slots (Caribbean Gold and Royal Liner), Keno, Roulette and Poker. The product has a 19 inch display screen and games can be played via buttons or touchscreen. The company has come a long way since its early days in the early 1960s

selling football tables, pinballs and jukeboxes. The group has expanded rapidly and not only sells in major markets such as Germany and Italy, but also develops its own touchscreen terminals followed by virtual pinball and more recently its gaming product range. Fun4Four is TAB's latest amusement creation offering a range of games from poker, skill, quiz and Internet facilities at a table where players can sit or stand (the table is height adjustable). Already TAB has sold 100 machines into Luxembourg and has now started sales in Switzerland and Austria.



Patrick Magendans of Elaut

Belgium's Elaut presented its range of classic roulette multi-game products at the recent IGE exhibition from the standard eight player to the 12 player model. The multiplayer offers a fully automated roulette game in combination with a fully automated Sic Bo dice game with independent player stations. The wheel can be either single or double zero. The monitors are high resolution 19ins. screens with two large 42 inch LCDs which allow the player to view the last 80 results, win table, camera view and other animations. The two games can be operated simultaneously and up to four random generators can be linked simultaneously. The software comes with SAS 6xx protocol and TITO. Elaut also presented the latest standalone deluxe station with 22ins. screen, bill acceptor and ticket printer possibilities.



UK-based Innovative Technology has been building products with a partner in China since 2007, but having reassessed its needs the company is now set to open a new manufacturing plant in Shenzhen. The company has chosen to open its own wholly-owned manufacturing plant (titled Bellis Technology Ltd, after David Bellis, Chairman of Innovative Technology and inventor of the original NV1 Smiley). The plant which employs 40 staff is based in Shenzhen's Export Processing Zone and will be operational this month, with the official opening scheduled for April 23. The new plant aims to increase the global production capacity of its bank note validation products and provide Innovative Technology with around 80 per cent more capacity for new products scheduled for release later in the year.