

Quad and Intelligent Audio Systems Formulating Strategic Alliance.

January 9, 2003; Las Vegas, NV... Proving the timelessness of its Quad ESL loudspeakers, IAG, (QUAD's parent company) is investigating the potential of a strategic alliance with Berkeley, CA high-tech startup Intelligent Audio Systems. In the works is a subwoofer technology that brings virtually unrestricted bass power and dynamic range to Quad's electrostatic loudspeakers, while meticulously preserving the remarkable subtlety and detail that has made the speakers the number one choice of audiophiles for decades.

"Matching a subwoofer to a fine electrostatic loudspeaker has been an elusive challenge for as long as anyone can remember. Over the years there have been creditable attempts at matching subs to ESL's, however, none has blended seamlessly and matched the transparency and character of the ESL" says Steve Woolley, IAG Group Managing Director. "And while it could be argued that the ESL-989 no more needs a subwoofer than does any other large conventional speaker around the same price, there are nonetheless many audio enthusiasts who crave LF performance down to 20Hz, combined with serious dynamics, but without having to ditch their beloved ESLs. When I heard the Intelligent Audio technology with our Quad 988, I immediately wondered if perhaps the rules had changed."

Resetting the very low frequency performance bar for Quad was a lifelong dream for Intelligent Audio co-founder Ken Kantor. "Experiencing a Quad ESL many years ago directly led me into high end audio. I had to own a pair immediately! Much of my academic study of acoustics and human hearing has been devoted to understanding exactly what science underlies such amazing sound."

The key to the bass, as it turned out, is to use a subwoofer that fully matches the directional properties of the Quad at critical-frequencies, and very gradually transitions to an all-out bass machine below that. Easy enough to talk about. Only very recently practical, thanks to powerful and unique signal processing technology pioneered by Intelligent Audio Systems.

"The proof will be in the listening," according to Woolley. "The Quad ESL's themselves remain a standard by which all loudspeakers, of any type, are judged. It's great to see a young technology company that has recognized this, and chosen to invest a significant research and development effort to enhance the ESL. As the project is still very much in the early evaluation stage, we'd therefore welcome people's opinions during CES."

Intelligent Audio's IA-643 subwoofer is being demonstrated with the Quad 988 at the Alexis Park, Suite 2705. White papers will be available at the show.