

PRESS RELEASE

20 February 2008

Clarion Events Acquired by VSS

Clarion Events, the UK's largest independent exhibition, event and conference business, has been acquired by Veronis Suhler Stevenson a private equity firm specialising in the media, information and education industries.

VSS is backing the existing management team led by Simon Kimble (CEO) and Tim Pilcher (COO) who led the original management buyout of the business in 2004. Joining the senior management team as non-executive Chairman is David Arculus, founder of Emap Business Communications and former chairman of Earls Court and Olympia.

Since the 2004 MBO, Clarion has grown by more than 300% and now generates a turnover of more than £50m. That growth has been driven by eight acquisitions, three joint venture partnerships and 15 launch events and has seen Clarion move from 44th to 32nd in the Sunday Times Buyout Track 100 list.

Commenting on the deal Simon Kimble said, "This is exciting news for Clarion and I'd like to thank everyone who has contributed to our success over the last three and half years. VSS share our vision of growth both organically and through acquisition and bring a wealth of event and media experience which will support our ambitions. There are numerous opportunities both within the UK and throughout Europe to develop existing Clarion brands and acquire exhibitions, events and conferences."

Marco Sodi, Partner at VSS said, "We have been investing in the exhibitions and events sectors for a long time and are extremely impressed with the Clarion management and their strong brands. We feel we have acquired a premier asset with leading "must attend" shows."

-ENDS-

For further information contact:

Clarion Events

Simon Kimble

T: +44 (0) 20 7370 8343

E: simon.kimble@clarionevents.com

Tim Pilcher

T: +44 (0) 20 7370 8343

E: tim.pilcher@clarionevents.com

Veronis Suhler Stevenson

Marco Sodi

T: +44 (0) 20 7484 1450

E: sodim@vss.com

Morgan Callagy

T: +44 (0) 20 7484 1480

E: callagym@vss.com