

# **PRESS RELEASE**

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2008

## **THE NEC GROUP COMPLETES SALE OF CLARION EVENTS NEC SHARE**

After a successful two and a half year partnership The NEC Group has sold its minority share in Clarion Events NEC to Clarion Events.

The NEC Group initially retained a stake in Clarion Events NEC to provide continuity to the former Centre Exhibitions. With Clarion having fully absorbed the Centre Exhibitions stable of shows into their business and provided a firm foundation on which to build them for the future, the view of both The NEC Group and Clarion was that the job of the partnership was now done.

Clarion NEC operates the well established Antiques for Everyone Fairs that take place three times per year and the prestigious National Fine Art and Antiques Fair. Music Live and Sounds Expo are the UK's leading music making events and the Classic Motor Show is the biggest show of its kind in the country.

Paul Thandi, Chief Executive of The NEC Group, said, "This is a great conclusion to a really valuable partnership. It's been a real pleasure working so closely with Simon Kimble, Gordon Payne and the rest of the Clarion Events NEC team. I have no doubt they will continue to transform the events sector.

"We will be looking at other creative ways to service live events, exhibitions, conferences and concerts in order to realise not only our vision but also the long term visions of our customers too. Our industries are changing rapidly, with new entrants in all sectors, allowing new partnership approaches and revenue models to be explored."

Simon Kimble, Managing Director of Clarion Events added, "We have enjoyed working with The NEC on the joint venture and very grateful for all they have done to make it successful. The events are well placed for continued growth and we have a good pipeline of new product development."

**ENDS**

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