



# Super Audio CD News

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## Northstar completes SA-CD production facility with new authoring system

With 15 year's experience in the high-resolution audio sector, Netherlands-based **Northstar Recording Services** is one of the first European facilities to offer DSD recording services. With more than 30 SA-CD productions under its belt, including 21 surround sound projects, the company's moving force, **Bert van der Wolf** has worked in a broad range of musical genre from classical to jazz and pop music.

The latest news from Haaften sees Northstar become the first independent studio and recording facility to offer a complete surround SA-CD production service from recording to post-production, mastering and now disc authoring. The facility has invested in **Philips-developed authoring tools** that are capable of creating, metering and verifying all DST encoded files and disc images needed in the SA-CD pressing process.

"SA-CD is the perfect end-user format since it is capable of reproducing all the artistry of the musicians, audio engineers and producers in the listeners' living rooms," comments Bert. "I believe in this medium and I also believe that the mastering engineer should be responsible for the whole creative process, right up to authoring the image onto the cutting master. Hence the reason for this investment. We have been with DSD and SA-CD from the start and I've seen a lot of organisations relying heavily on support from Philips and Sony. It is time that this situation changes and the industry stands on its own legs. This investment is a small stone tossed in to the pond, but already the ripples are spreading and people are listening to our message. Finally, we have a chance to change things with SA-CD."

For more information, please contact [info@superaudio-cd.com](mailto:info@superaudio-cd.com)

## 13<sup>th</sup> European SA-CD Software Catalogue Available

**Sony's Super Audio CD Business Centre (Europe)** has published the 13<sup>th</sup> edition of its Super Audio CD catalogue featuring more than **1200 SA-CD** albums that are available in Europe (globally, over 1800 titles are available on the format). This catalogue includes **320 new titles** and more than 80 per cent are presented as hybrid, surround releases. The largest group of new entrants is classical music with 162 new titles, responding to a demand for highest audio quality from this discerning audience.

The new titles cover a wide range of music genre from classical to jazz and some 73 new pop releases. The catalogue includes releases from 85 record labels, with a significant number being debutantes within this latest catalogue. Alongside majors such as **BMG, EMI, Virgin, Sony Music Entertainment** and **Universal Music** a rapidly growing list of independent labels are building their own SA-CD catalogues. "We are seeing increasing acceptance of Super Audio CD by the music industry," comments the Business Centre's Director, **David Walstra**. "On average some 80 to 90 titles are being released each month and this rate is increasing rapidly. In terms of surround sound quality and industrial piracy protection, Super Audio CD is proving to provide exactly what the music industry needs."

For more press information, please contact [info@superaudio-cd.com](mailto:info@superaudio-cd.com).

## Call to unite behind a common standard

Against a backdrop of reducing CD sales and an increasing incidence of industrial music piracy, the originators of the Super Audio CD format are calling on the music industry to act decisively and unite in supporting one common audio format for future development. "There are issues within the music market which need to be addressed now or the entire industry will suffer as a consequence," stated **Jos Bruins, SA-CD & DVD Marketing Director at Philips Standards & Intellectual Property**. "Action must be taken to stop the decline in recorded music sales and a clear message is required to provide direction for all the industry and for consumer as well."

Four years after the introduction of the first SA-CD players in Europe, the format's business model is established and rapidly growing in strength. With over 70 player models and systems from 28 different equipment manufacturing, a burgeoning production community and over 25 million discs in circulation, Super Audio CD is a plausible solution to the music industry's current problems.

"Electronic music distribution has a role to play in today's market but we need a high quality platform capable of replacing CD and meeting the needs of today's and tomorrow's music listener," commented **David Walstra, Director, Sony Super Audio CD Business Centre (Europe)**. "Superb surround sound quality, CD compatibility and secure content security: Super Audio CD answers the needs of today's music consumer. SA-CD works in the real world and it is time for all the industry to unite in driving this sophisticated format forwards."

For more information, please contact [info@superaudio-cd.com](mailto:info@superaudio-cd.com).

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## We're here to help

The Super Audio CD PR Information Centre produces this newsletter. We have not included images within this electronic publication in order to keep the file size reasonable. If you require images or more information on any of the stories featured, please don't hesitate to contact us at [info@superaudio-cd.com](mailto:info@superaudio-cd.com).

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