# Focusrite Plc

Half Year Results for the period ended **28 February 2023** 

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## Agenda

**Introduction and Highlights** 

**Operational Review** 

**Financial Review** 

**Growth Strategy** 

**Summary and Outlook** 



**Tim Carroll**Chief Executive Officer



**Sally McKone**Chief Financial Officer

## Focusrite Plc: A global music and audio products Group



#### **CONTENT CREATION: 78% of revenue**

- Focusrite: audio recording equipment
- Focusrite Pro: audio recording and broadcasting equipment for commercial operations
- Novation: hardware and software for creating and playing electronic music
- Ampify: software and content for creating music
- ADAM Audio: studio monitors, acquired July 2019
- Sequential: high end synthesizers, acquired April 2021
- Oberheim: high end synthesizers, acquired May 2022
- Sonnox: audio processing software plug-ins, acquired December 2022

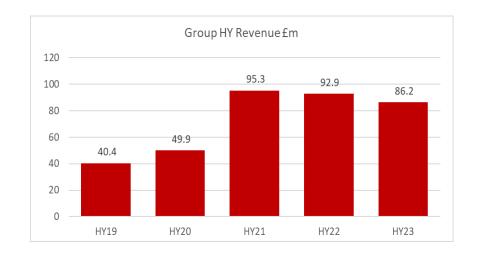


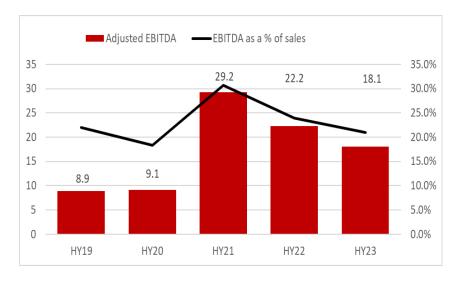
#### **AUDIO REPRODUCTION: 22% of revenue**

- Martin Audio: live and installed sound, acquired December 2019
- Optimal Audio: commercial audio, launched April 2021
- Linea Research: high end amplifiers, acquired March 2022

## Summary for the six months ended 28 February 2023

- Benefits of diversification and **solid portfolio businesses** is highlighted in tough macro economic environment
  - Revenue reflecting portfolio strength with Audio Reproduction up 50.7%
     driven by return of live music and Content Creation down 16.1%
  - o **Group down 7.2%¹ vs HY22** (-19.0%² organic constant currency)
- Gross margin up 0.5% points to 47.1% from HY22. Freight cost reduction reinvested in promotions in a competitive Nov/Dec holiday environment
- Adjusted EBITDA<sup>3</sup> £18.1m down 18.8% with gross margin strength only partially offsetting sales volume declines
- **EMEA performing relatively well** showing the impact of regional sales restructure
- 21 new products launched during the half year with further releases planned for second half
- Sonnox acquisition substantially strengthens Group's software offering & DSP development
- Component issues now largely resolved resulting in healthy product levels across the sales channel





<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Calculated as the percentage difference in the reported numbers in £ thousands.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The organic constant currency (OCC) growth rate is calculated by comparing HY23 revenue to HY22 revenue adjusted for exchange rates and the impact of acquisitions.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Comprising earnings adjusted for interest, taxation, depreciation, amortisation, goodwill impairment and non-underlying items

## **Content Creation Growth by Brand**

- Focusrite & Novation: Growth impacted by
  - Higher global channel stock levels going into the year
  - Macroeconomic challenges leading to weaker demand in certain regions
  - Planned inventory channel reduction in advance of new product releases
- ADAM: Growth coming from strong acceptance of new A series and low base from component issues in FY22
- Sequential: Growth from NPI and improved routes to market execution offset by weaker high end synth demand
- Sonnox: in line with expectations and collaborative working already in place

	HY23 £m	HY22 £m	FY23/22 Reported Growth	FY23/22 OCC <sup>1</sup> growth	FY22 £m
Focusrite and Pro	40.1	54.9	-27.1%	-35.0%	97.2
Novation and Ampify	8.2	10.5	-21.9%	-28.7%	20.6
ADAM	10.1	8.4	21.9%	12.2%	17.8
Sequential and Oberheim	8.7	6.6	33.5%	15.6%	16.2
Sonnox	0.3	-	N/A	N/A	-
Content Creation	67.4	80.4	-16.1%	-25.2%	151.8

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> OCC (organic constant currency growth). This is calculated by comparing FY23 revenue to FY22 revenue adjusted for FY23 exchange rates and the impact of acquisitions.

## Content Creation: Revenue impacted by stock levels in the sales channels

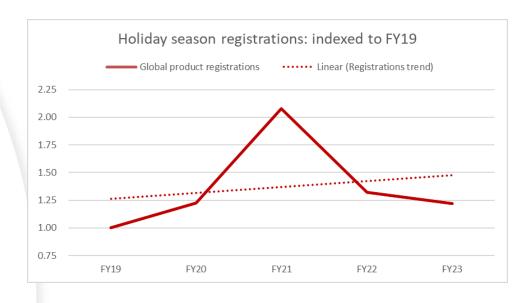


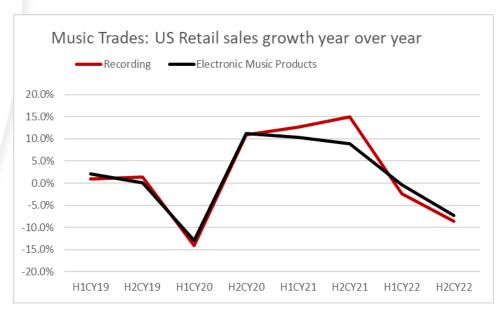
Period end months of stock in the channel	Less than half a month	Approx 1.5 months	Steady at 1.5 months	Increases to approx. 5 months	Decrease to approx 4 months
Demand and supply	First lockdowns and initial surge	Ongoing lockdowns but component issues curtail supply	Supply begins to bounce back with stock available but not yet in channel	Channel replenished in advance of holiday season	Slowing demand leaves high levels of stock in the channel

- Channel stock pre-pandemic averaged 4 months
- Channel inventory starting to reset in HY23 has resulted in approx one month (10%) lower sell into the channel
- "During the latter half of 2022...the retail channel found itself awash in inventory" Music Trades 2022 Census

## Holding market share in challenging markets

- Global registrations relate to end user sales of our Content Creation products and are our direct monitor of external demand
- Global registrations during the key November and December months in this half year
  - up 22% compared to pre pandemic (FY19) a CAGR of 5.1%.
  - down 7%, compared to the prior year, which is ahead of the overall global market decline
- US market date shows a decline of 8.6% in H2 2022 and weaker results in other regions, particularly APAC





## Content Creation Portfolio retaining high market share

- Thomann: Largest Musical retailer across
   EMEA: Focusrite interfaces & ADAM monitors
   consistently top performers in each category
- Sweetwater: Largest online retailer of musical instruments in the United States: Focusrite interfaces consistent placement in top 10 most popular
- Well positioned for market recovery



Thomann top 10: monitors

## **Award Winning New products**

- Investment in R&D is at the heart of all our brands
- This half year we invested 8.3% of revenue in our innovation teams across the Group, resulting in 21 new products and award winning results
  - Four of Sound on Sound (SOS) best in class
  - Optimal Audio wins best manufacturer at the AV Awards
  - Music Retailer "Recording Equipment of the Year"

#### **SOS: Best Keyboard/synth**



Oberheim OB-X8

#### **SOS: Best Microphone Preamp**



Focusrite Clarett+ OctoPre

#### **SOS: Best Monitor**

#### SOS: Best performance controller





Novation Launchkov 91



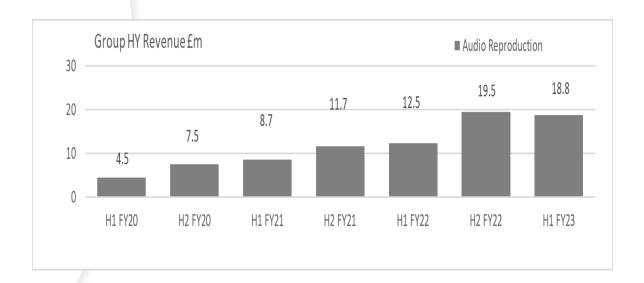




## **Audio Reproduction**

- Market growth
  - Strong return of live events globally
  - Continued growth in Installed Sound
- New product introductions: Direct result of keeping Martin fully open during pandemic when many competitors completely shut
- Linea acquisition: Group leverage in acquiring components netting increased sales to both Martin and 3rd party customers. Linea contributing £2.4m, ahead of expectations
- Optimal: More products coming on line following constricted component supply in HY22

	HY23 £m	HY22 £m	FY23/22 Reported Growth	FY23/22 OCC <sup>1</sup> growth	FY22 £m
Martin, Linea and Optimal	18.8	12.5	50.7%	25.3%	31.9



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> OCC (organic constant currency growth). This is calculated by comparing FY23 revenue to FY22 revenue adjusted for FY23 exchange rates and the impact of acquisitions.

### Live Events are Back!

First half has seen robust bookings and revenue for commercial installations as well as deployment of Martin/Linea solutions across many of the world's biggest festivals and tours





NEWS - MUSIC NEWS



Stagecoach Country Music Festival 2023



Ultra Miami Festival 2023

Glastonbury Festival 2023 tickets sell out: "A morning when demand far exceeded supply"

Global Sound Reinforcement Market to Exceed \$9B by 2023, Says Report

Live Events Bounce Back From Pandemic, And Forward Into The Immersive Future



FORBES > BUSINESS > MEDIA

## CUPOJOY SELECTS MARTIN AUDIO WPS FOR PERMANENT SOUND INSTALLATION

10/1/2023- 13:0:0



#### UAE'S LARGEST FITNESS CENTRE KEEPS UP THE PACE WITH 200 MARTIN AUDIO SPEAKERS

23/11/2022- 9-0-

Slated as the largest indoor health and fitness club inDubai offering world class facilities over 75 000 sq ft



## GRACE CHURCH UPGRADES WITH MARTIN AUDIO TORUS

12/12/2022- 9:0:0

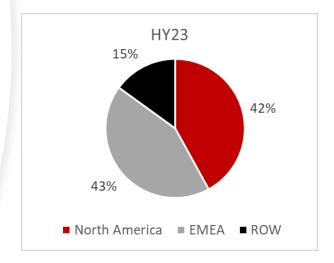
Based in Des Moines Iowa Conference Technologies Inc CTI recently completed a sound system integration at the nearby Gra...

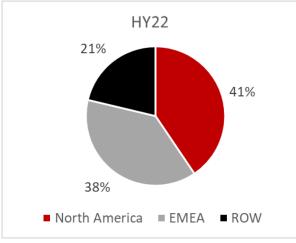


## Regional revenue performance

North America -8.7% to £36.3m	СС	-15.3%	Focusrite/Novation down due to channel stock & softer demand Offset by Sequential and ADAM up due to NPI and reduced supply in H1 FY22
	AR	+70.9% 👚	Resurgence of live markets
EMEA +3.4% to	СС	-9.0%	As North America
£36.6m	AR	+91.5%	Resurgence of live markets
Rest of World:	СС	-35.9% 👢	APAC impacted by China COVID
-24.9% to £13.3m	AR	+2.7%	Growth across APAC but with COVID impacts in China

	HY23	HY22	HY23/22	HY23/22	FY22
	£m	£m	growth	OCC <sup>1</sup> growth	£m
North America	36.3	39.8	-8.7%	-24.6%	74.5
Europe, Middle East and					
Africa	36.6	35.4	3.4%	0.8%	70.1
Rest of World	13.3	17.7	-24.9%	-36.8%	39.1
Group Revenue	86.2	92.9	-7.2%	-19.0%	183.7

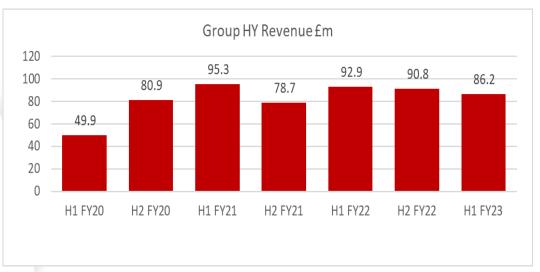


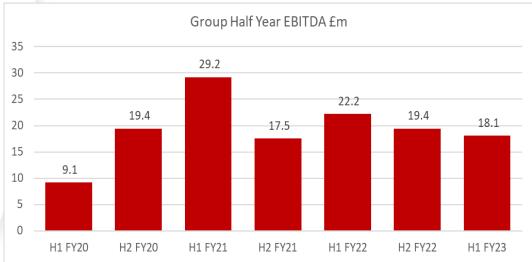


 $<sup>^1</sup>$  OCC (organic constant currency growth). This is calculated by comparing FY22 revenue to FY21 revenue adjusted for FY22 exchange rates and the impact of acquisitions.

## Financial overview

- Group revenue down -7.2%, still **73% up over pre pandemic** (HY20)
- Gross margin at **47.1% is higher than HY22 and H2 FY22**, with some freight benefits invested in promotions as planned
- Adjusted EBITDA<sup>1</sup> down to £18.1m from £22.2m in HY22 due to lower sales volumes
- Adjusted free cash flow<sup>2</sup> -£2.3m (HY22: £3.3m): -2.7% of revenue (FY22: 3.5%) due to stock phasing to support new products
- Adjusted diluted EPS 18.0p down 31.3% from HY22 26.2p (restated<sup>4</sup>)
- Reported diluted EPS 14.3p (down 37.3% from HY22 22.8p)
- Net debt<sup>3</sup> of £13.2m (HY22: net cash £18.0m) funding acquisitions and inventory build
- Interim dividend of 2.1 pence, up 13.5% from 1.85 pence in 2022





<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> EBITDA earnings adjusted for interest, taxation, depreciation, amortisation, goodwill impairment and non-underlying items <sup>2</sup> Adjusted Free cashflow net cash from operating activities less net cash used in investing and financing activities, excluding dividends paid

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Net debt: as cash and cash equivalents, amounts drawn against the RCF including the costs of arranging the RCF 4 Restated to include the deferred tax credit arising on the amortisation of acquired intangibles, which was not previously included. See note 1.8 to the interim financial statements

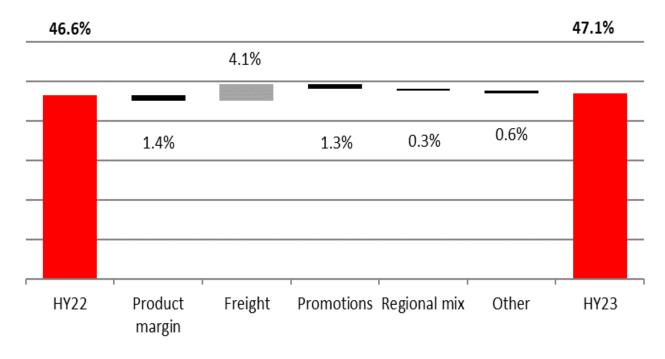
### **Income Statement**

- Revenue -7.2% (organic constant currency -19.0%)
- Gross margin 47.1% (HY22: 46.6%)
  - Freight costs back to pre pandemic levels, offset by investment in promotions during the holiday season
- Admin expenses increase of £2.2m, impacted by acquisitions (£0.8m), amortisation (£0.8m) and inflation at approx. 3% overall
- Adjusted EBITDA -18.8% to £18.1m. Impacted by lower sales volumes, and relatively stable underlying costs
- Tax charge of £2.4m with an effective rate of 22.44% moving closer to UK headline rate

	HY23	HY22	FY22
	£m	£m	£m
Revenue	86.2	92.9	183.7
Cost of sales	(45.6)	(49.6)	(100.5)
Gross profit	40.6	43.3	83.3
Operating expenses before adjusting items	(26.4)	(24.2)	(48.6)
Operating profit before adjusting items	14.2	19.1	34.7
Adjusting items	(2.7)	(2.8)	(6.0)
Operating profit	11.4	16.3	28.7
Net financing credit/(charges)	(0.6)	-	1.9
Profit before tax	10.9	16.3	30.5
Tax	(2.4)	(3.1)	(5.8)
Profit after tax	8.5	13.2	24.7
Operating profit before non-underlying items	14.2	19.1	34.7
Add back depreciation and amortisation	3.9	3.1	7.0
Adjusted EBITDA	18.1	22.2	41.7

## **Gross Margin**

HY22 to HY23 margin bridge



- Product margin down 1.4% points as cost increases from FY22 are partially offset by sales price increases
- Freight costs down by 4.1% of sales, back to pre pandemic levels
- 1.3% points reinvested in promotions over the first half in a competitive Nov/Dec holiday season
- Negative 0.3% regional mix due to lower royalty sales into China

### **Balance Sheet**

- Intangible fixed assets
  - Acquisitions: £6.5m increase from Linea, £4.5m for Oberheim, £5.5m from Sonnox
  - Investment: £4.3m of R&D and £1.1m of licences
- Tangible assets in line since year end and increased in FY22 due to a new lease and Linea property purchase (£1.5m)
- Working capital 27.0% of revenue: ahead of historic averages of 20% as inventory in place to support new product launches
- Net debt of £13.2m, comprising cash of £13.6m and year end draw-down RCF of £26.9m and arrangement fee of £0.1m
- Non-current liabilities £19.1m impacted by addition of lease liabilities, £6.9m, and future Oberheim payments of £3.5m

	HY23	HY22	FY22
	£m	£m	£m
Intangible assets	84.3	59.7	76.6
Tangible assets	10.8	6.5	10.9
Total non current assets	95.1	66.2	87.5
Inventories	50.7	25.7	48.3
Debtors and other investments	27.5	23.7	28.9
Total current assets	78.2	49.4	77.2
Current liabilities	(30.3)	(29.9)	(41.1)
Net current assets/working capital	47.9	19.5	36.1
Net (debt)/cash	(13.2)	17.8	(0.3)
Total assets less current liabilities	129.7	85.7	123.6
Non current liabilities	(19.1)	(9.4)	(18.0)
Net assets	110.6	76.3	105.6
Working capital as % sales	27.0%	11.4%	19.8%

## Cash flow

- Adjusted Free cash flow<sup>1</sup> as a % of sales -2.7% of revenue
  - Long term average 10-12%
  - Rebuild of stock and low trade creditors due to product transition
- Investing £5.9m
  - Capitalised R&D £4.3m: investing for future roadmap and expected to continue at this level in H2
- Net debt<sup>2</sup> of £13.2m
  - HSBC/NatWest revolving credit facility of £40m until December
     2024
- Interim dividend of 2.1p
  - Adjusted diluted EPS dividend cover of 8.6x
  - Cash cover impacted this year by the inventory build

	HY23	HY22	FY22
	£m	£m	£m
EBITDA	18.1	22.2	41.7
Non cash items	(1.9)	(0.9)	0.2
Movement in working capital	(10.9)	(10.1)	(26.8)
Operating cash flow	5.3	11.3	15.0
Interest paid	(0.6)	0.2	(0.3)
Tax paid	(0.9)	(2.7)	(3.4)
Net cash from operating activities	3.7	8.8	11.3
Investing (exc acquisitions)	(5.9)	(4.4)	(12.5)
Payment of lease liabilities	(0.4)	(0.5)	(1.2)
FX movement	(0.9)	(1.3)	(1.9)
Free cash flow	(3.5)	2.6	(4.3)
Acquisitions	(7.2)	-	(10.9)
Bank loan	13.7	-	13.2
Dividends	(2.4)	(2.2)	(3.2)
Net change in cash	0.6	0.5	(5.2)
Opening cash	12.8	17.3	17.3
Foreign exchange movement	0.1	(0.0)	0.7
Closing net cash	13.5	17.8	12.8
Free cashflow	(3.5)	2.6	(4.3)
Adjusting items	1.2	-0.2	0.9
Adjusted free cashflow	(2.3)	2.4	(3.4)
Free cashflow as a % of sales	-4.0%	2.8%	-2.3%
Adjusted free cashflow as a % of sales	-2.7%	2.6%	-1.8%

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Adjusted Free cashflow net cash from operating activities less net cash used in investing and financing activities, excluding dividends paid

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Net debt: as cash and cash equivalents, amounts drawn against the RCF including the costs of arranging the RCF

## Ongoing challenges have been well managed

#### China

- Like many companies we are dependent upon China for raw materials and much of our manufacturing
- We monitor the ongoing geopolitical situation and where possible plan to mitigate with supply chains and, albeit limited, options regarding contract manufacturing relocation

#### Cost inflation

- Inflationary increases impacting material costs are monitored and pricing actions taken across all brands
- Assess market pricing to ensure our products remain competitive, leveraging promotions where relevant
- Using a broad package of options to ensure we can attract and retain the best talent

#### People

- A more competitive job market post pandemic and Brexit
- We have refined our recruitment process and continue to focus on our commitment to be a Great Place to Work

## **Evolving our Environmental Commitment**

- Linking Environmental Benefits to Sales
- We have linked Tree Planting to the wood consumption in our products across the group
- Now as a minimum, we are replacing 10x more wood back into forests than we consume
- To date, we have planted more than 70,000 new trees in partnership with Ecologi across a range of reforestation projects globally
- Ongoing sustainable initiatives built from design into all future product developments



## Our ongoing Commitment to Community

- Linking Community Benefits to Strategy
- We have worked with the Inter Development Bank to donate over 4,000 electronic instruments to students in Colombia as part of a programme to start students with a career in the music industry
- We continue to work with education partners across all our global markets – including simple instructions to help faculties plan for their facilities' audio needs



## **Focusrite Growth Strategy**



Create a
Great Place
to Work

We embrace the diverse foundations of the world of audio and nurture our talent to build a culture of equity and inclusion

- Office upgrades for both Focusrite and Martin
- First Groupwide eNPS survey



Grow the Core Customer Base

We invest in R&D to ensure our products are constantly evolving to inspire people across music, podcasting and gaming

- 21 new products this year
- More than 50 product updates
- Queen's Award for Enterprise



**Expand into new markets** 

We invest in local markets as part of our go to market strategy, and seek to grow organically and through acquisition

- Successful Sonnox acquisition
- Strengthened regional team in EMEA



Focus on Life
Time Value
for
Customers

We deliver world class tech support and best in class out of box experiences and continue to generate industry leading NPS scores

- Industry leading sustainability initiatives in place
- Continued industry leading NPS scores across the portfolio

## **Summary and Outlook**

- o Focusrite's diversification strategy has helped provide increased resilience in the face of global and industry headwinds
- Successful integration of Linea Research and Sonnox, expanding portfolio to 11 brands
- Content Creation division impacted by softer markets and surplus channel inventory levels with EBITDA lower due to lower sales volumes not fully offset by stronger gross margins and cost control
- Audio Reproduction division benefitted from a resurgence in live events and a strong performance from Linea Research
- Strong markets share maintained, underscored by rock solid brand positions and new product launches
- Trading since the half year has remained solid with stock in the channel reducing and live sound market buoyant
- Revenue growth in H2 to be in line with our expectations driven by key product introductions, alongside elevated costs due to promotional activity for existing products

# Focusrite Plc

**Additional Information** 

**April 2023** 

Content Creation Market	Aspiring Creator	Passionate Maker	Serious Producer	Music Master	Facility
Market size	£450m - £500m	£625m - £675m	£250m - £275m	£200m - £250m	£300m - £350m
Customer use	Creatives wanting fast results to share with friends	Artists and music makers hungry to improve	Constantly refining music production	Produces music for a living	Post production to studios to campuses
Focusrite		$\overline{\checkmark}$		$\overline{\checkmark}$	
Focusrite Pro			$\overline{\checkmark}$	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$
Novation		$\overline{\mathbf{V}}$	$\square$	ightharpoons	$\overline{\checkmark}$
Ampify	ightharpoons	$\overline{\checkmark}$			
ADAM		$\overline{\checkmark}$		$\overline{\checkmark}$	$\overline{\checkmark}$
Sequential		$\overline{\checkmark}$		$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$
Oberheim			$\overline{\checkmark}$		$\overline{\checkmark}$
Sonnox			$\overline{\checkmark}$	$\overline{\checkmark}$	

Audio Reproduction Market	Less than 15 metres	15 – 30 metres	30 + metres
Market size	£960m - £1,200m	£960m - £1,200m	£250m - £275m
	Point source portable and on wall speakers	Smaller line arrays and constant curvature arrays	Large scale line arrays
Customer use	Intimate gigs and smaller venues	Medium sized auditoria and night clubs	Concerts and festivals up to 100,000 people and large venues
Martin Audio		$\overline{\checkmark}$	ightharpoons
Optimal Audio	$\overline{\checkmark}$		
Linea Research		$\checkmark$	$\overline{\checkmark}$

### **Product sectors: Focusrite**

#### **Focusrite**







#### **Focusrite Pro**





**Scarlett:** Mass market interface. Home user \$100 to \$500

**Clarett:** Intermediate / Professional user \$400 to \$1,200

**Vocaster**: Podcasting/streaming solutions: \$149-\$399

**RedNet:** Enterprise, Live, Broadcast, Education. Networked Audio over IP \$3,000 upwards

**Red:** Creative Professional, Music, Post \$2,000 to \$3,500

## **Product sectors: Novation** including Ampify

#### **Novation**









#### **CONTROLLERS**

Physical interfaces to control music creation software

Grid controllers: Launchpad - \$100 to \$300.

Keyboard controllers: Launchkey - \$100 to \$250.

#### **STANDALONE**

Function on their own as sound generating devices

Grid: Circuit - \$330.

Keyboard: Bass Station II - \$400.

#### **SOFTWARE**

iOS apps that allow creation of music on iPhones/iPads Freemium iOS apps and add-on packs starting from \$1









## **Product sectors: ADAM Audio**



T Series
Entry level studio monitor: \$400-\$500 per pair



AX Series
Mid level studio monitor:
\$700-\$2,000 per pair



S Series
High end studio monitor: \$1,750\$20,000 per unit



Subwoofers \$700-\$8,000 per unit



**Headphones**SP-5 headphones: \$500









ıle / Kbd

OB-6 Module / Kbd \$2,399 - \$3,099

Prophe \$2,599



Prophet X / XL \$3,499

NEW







Product sectors: Sequential/Oberheim

### Product Sectors: **Sonnox**













## **Product sectors: Martin Audio**



**Small Sound Systems** 

For up to 250 people. From \$500



**Medium Format Systems** 

From 250-1500 people: prices from \$2,000



**Large Format Systems** From 1500 to 10,000+ people. Prices from \$40,000

## **Product sectors: Optimal Audio**



ZonePad wall controllers



Zone processors



SmartAmp DSP amplifiers



Up ceiling speakers



Sub sub-woofers



Cuboid on-wall speakers

## **Product sectors: Linea Research**





C Series Installation amplifiers- £4,200 - £6,000





ASC Loudspeaker and System Processor - £1,650

XiB installation amplifiers - £1,650

## **Restated Adjusted EPS**

	HY23 Reported £'000	HY22 Restated £'000	FY22 Restated £'000	HY22 Prior £'000	FY22 Prior £'000
Reported profit after tax	8,449	13,453	24,776	13,453	24,776
Adjusting items	2,734	2,793	6,011	2,793	6,011
Tax on adjusting items	(565)	(831)	(1,376)	(287)	(156)
Adjusted profit after tax	10,618	15,415	29,411	15,959	30,631
Weighted shares (number)  Diluted weighted shares (number)	58,494,265 58,935,624	58,215,504 58,909,742	58,294,306 58,917,444	58,215,504 58,909,742	58,294,306 58,917,444
Adjusted basic EPS	18.2	26.5	50.5	27.4	52.5
Adjusted diluted EPS	18.0	26.2	49.9	27.1	52.0

- Tax on adjusted items has been restated to include the deferred tax credit due to the amortisation of acquired intangibles, which had not previously been considered as adjusting
- These measures have been restated for HY22 and FY22

## Foreign exchange

Exchange rates	HY23	HY22
Average		
US\$:£	1.19	1.35
€:£	1.14	1.18
Average rate of forward contracts		
€:£	1.17	1.13
Weighted average applicable rate		
US\$:£	1.19	1.35
€:£	1.16	1.15
Period end rate		
US\$:£	1.21	1.34
€:£	1.14	1.20

- Natural hedge for USD
  - US and ROW revenue.
  - Total c50% of revenue but almost all cost of sales so minor net profit inflow
- Euro hedged
  - c75% of major Euro flows hedged for year
  - 50% for the following year

# Focusrite Plc

Removing Barriers to Creativity