

ENGINEERING

Sound Alert wins lucrative contracts

Ofex-listed **Sound Alert** is expected to announce two new contracts this morning (31 May) as its directional sound evacuation product continues to attract interest.

The company's Localizer technology emits a sound that the human ear can accurately locate. This means that when evacuation from a building, aeroplane or ship is required, especially when visibility is impaired in circumstances such as fire, Sound Alert's technology allows it to be done quickly and as efficiently as possible.

Today's contracts are expected to be with **Klaxon & Yamaguchi Electric Company (YEC)**, both of which will use

the Localizer to produce directional sound beacons for the building evacuation market.

Klaxon is part of the **Halma Group**, which includes Apollo Fire Detectors, the world's largest speciality maker of smoke detectors. Its name became synonymous with the Klaxon horn in early motor cars and World War II submarines.

YEC makes components for automotive ignition systems as well as alarms heard when lorries and other vehicles reverse. It already works with Sound Alert on its BBStek broadband reversing alarm.

Eventually, Sound Alert sees a mar-

ket for its directional evacuation equipment not only in commercial buildings but in ships, trains and aircraft too. It is also currently in negotiations with the three largest manufacturers of domestic smoke detectors.

The brainchild of Professor Deborah Withington, the Localizer won the Prince of Wales Award for Innovation. It reduces evacuation times by as much as 60% and is particularly useful in poor visibility. Even when visibility is good however, the device's use is in guiding evacuees to the correct exit rather than leave them going down dead-ends or going through the wrong door. Sound Alert shares are 29.5p.