

Sound Sense

Issue 2

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www.ferghac.ie

Siemens – Acuris e2e wireless

Built on a solid technological foundation

Years of innovation and testing have resulted in the development of digital hearing aids to take you into the future. At the heart of Acuris is state-of-the-art digital technology. Siemens goal is to ensure that the Acuris ear-to-ear (e2e) wireless hearing aids provide outstanding performance in many situations allowing ease, simplicity and comfort for the wearer.

- Acuris e2e wireless, the first of its kind in the world, creates total synchronization of two hearing aids.
- The hearing aids actually communicate with each other, continually and automatically analysing, sensing, interpreting and responding together. Adjustment for both the volume and program is simultaneously made on both when one hearing aid is changed.
- An optional ePocket remote control is available to allow manual adjustment also.
- The perception of annoying "whistle" or feedback is avoided and Acuris maintains excellent sound quality even when the hearing aid is using maximum power.
- Advanced microphones allow for independent reduction of up to four different noise sources simultaneously and also automatically adapt to moving noise sources.



wireless

- Acuris helps to minimize or reduce background noise in many situations thus increasing speech intelligibility.
- Comfort features include optional open ear fitting, an audible beep to indicate low battery, program change and volume control steps and limits. Automatic wind noise reduction reduces the annoying effects of wind noise.

Siemens hearing aids are now manufactured in Ireland, which greatly improves service and repair times. Siemens also make a mid-price range with many additional features, which previously were only available in very advanced systems.

If you would like to discuss the Acuris e2e or any other hearing aid system with us please do not hesitate to contact us.

Bigger grant for hearing aid wearers Treatment benefit scheme grant increased

The Department of Social and Family Affairs operates the Treatment Benefit Scheme. Eligible patients and dependant spouses who have full PRSI cover may obtain a grant towards the cost of a hearing aid. This includes contributory pensioners, invalidity pensioners, those on disability benefit and their dependant spouses (conditions apply).

The grant is available to qualifying PRSI payers if they obtain a hearing aid privately irrespective of whether they have a medical card or not.

In the case of one hearing aid being required the grant is 50% of the cost up to a maximum of €760.00. If two hearing aids are required, the maximum grant is 50% of the cost up to a maximum of €1520.00. You can obtain full details of the eligibility conditions for the grant from the Department web site at <http://www.welfare.ie> or from our clinic in Limerick.



€760
€1520

It should also be remembered that tax relief for prescribed medical appliances, which includes hearing aids, is available to taxpayers under the MED 1 Scheme. Relief is available on your own behalf, on behalf of a dependant or on behalf of a relative (conditions apply). You can obtain full details from the Revenue Commissioners web site at <http://www.revenue.ie> or from our Limerick clinic.

DSFA

Visit our new web site www.ferghac.ie



www.ferghac.ie

Our most recent project has been to re-design our web site. We did this in conjunction with talented graphic designer Bernadette Bourke. We are delighted with the design and to date we have had very positive feedback.

There are many, many websites with a mind-boggling amount of information about hearing and hearing loss. When you consult the web it is very important to ensure that the source of any information you read is reliable and accredited to properly qualified personnel.

Our web site is particularly friendly to anybody with a disability such as poor vision because it is compatible with web browsers designed for the blind. It is easy to navigate and intuitive to use. Our web site address is www.ferghac.ie

O₂ ability awards Dermot McEvoy and Dell category winner

Congratulations to Dermot Mc Evoy and Dell who were a category winner in the O₂ Ability Awards earlier this year.

Speaking on the phone to Dermot, a technical development leader at Dell, you wouldn't know that he is any different to any other employee. To meet him face-to-face you would probably think he is a man who spends a lot of time on the phone and so permanently has an earpiece attached to his ears.

In fact this piece of equipment is a very advanced combination of a hearing aid and a radio assistive listening system. The Wireless Communication System (or FM system) comes from leading Swiss Hearing Aid Manufacturer Phonak and Peter fitted it for Dermot a year ago.

Wireless communication technology is very common today for a multitude of applications and situations all over the world.

Some examples of the use of wireless communication technology are:

- Cablefree telephones
- Walky-talkies
- Baby monitoring systems

technology

An FM system for hearing instrument users works on the same principle. It consists of a transmitter, which picks up the voice from the speaker and sends it via radio waves, wirelessly, directly to the tiny radio (FM) receiver, which is connected to the personal hearing instrument.

Up to now this receiver was a separate attachment or "shoe" which the wearer attached to the behind-the-ear hearing (BTE) aid. Now Phonak have integrated the FM receiver into the hearing aid creating a much more user-friendly system – Smartlink tm SX. This system has a number of advantages including advanced FM Features, Hearing Aid remote control and a Bluetooth link for mobile phone use.

Because this system includes Bluetooth technology it is particularly useful for somebody like Dermot who spends lots of time on conference calls on the phone. It enables him to focus in on particular voices without having to hold large pieces of equipment. Smartlink wearers can enjoy unrestricted use with all Bluetooth compatible mobile phones making telephone use easier.

If you would like information on FM systems please contact us. You can also see the Smartlink FM system on Phonak's website at www.phonak.co.uk

How to prevent nuisance sales calls

Most people have had a mealtime, or a quiet evening, disturbed by a sales call – usually for something you don't want

Cold but not cool!

A cold call is a sales call made by a company to a person without his or her permission. Marketing companies can get your name in several ways – from the phone book, from information you may have provided on a coupon requesting information, or from another company with whom they share marketing lists.

Opt Out

The Commission for Communication Regulation (Com Reg), and the office of the Data Protection Commissioner (ODPC) recently launched a free 'opt out' register to help people who no longer want to be bothered by these cold calls. Simply contact your phone line rental provider and tell it that you no longer wish to receive this kind of call. Your phone line rental provider records your preference in the National Directory Database. Marketing companies then have 28 days to note this information. If a company persists in calling after you have told it not to, or calls more than 28 days after you have opted out, you can complain to the Data Protection Commissioner.

Just in case...

Before making a complaint about unsolicited advertising, you should make sure you have your facts right. A company is allowed to make advertising calls to you if you have given it your details, or if you are, or have until recently been a customer. This applies even if you are on the 'opt out' register, unless you notify the company that you no longer wish to receive such calls

Useful Contacts

Commission for Communications Regulation (Comreg)
Irish Life Centre, Abbey Court,
Lower Abbey Street, Dublin 1
Tel: 1890 229668
Email: consumerline@comreg.ie
Web site: www.ask.comreg.ie

Data Protection Commissioner
3rd. Floor, Block 6, Irish Life Centre,
Lower Abbey Street, Dublin 1
Tel: 01 8748544
Email: info@dataprotection

Two sides are better than one

Driving a car, business meetings around a table or listening in restaurants all pose listening challenges when you have one ear with very poor hearing



Is WiFi Mic right for you?

If any one of the following describes your situation, then WiFi Mic may be for you:

- No functional hearing in one ear
- Normal hearing or a hearing loss in the better ear
- Cannot use a traditional hearing aid on the poorer ear
- Lifestyle places high demand on hearing with the poor ear
- Seeking greater convenience and listening comfort

WiFi Mic

In the past Cros/Bicros hearing aids were the only solution to having a "bad" or dead ear on one side and normal hearing or a hearing loss on the other side. These Behind-the-Ear aids work well but mean that a cable has to join both aids. This cable sits on or under your hair and runs around the back of the head.

Now Unitron Hearing have designed a discreet system that incorporates wireless capabilities with superior digital signal processing - WiFi mic. WiFi mic eliminates the need for a cord to join the hearing aids and uses advanced wireless technology to transmit sounds originating on the side of your poorer ear to your better ear on the opposite side. Later in the year this technology will be available for In-the-Ear hearing aids.

Some of the benefits of the system are:

- Improved awareness of surrounding sounds
- More discreet solution without embarrassing wires or cables
- High-value, feature-rich digital products with practical options and extras
- Enhanced ability to participate in conversations

If you are interested in discussing this latest system please contact us.

Music making fans deaf? How the iPod generation may be losing it's hearing without even knowing it

This article, published in November 2005, in the rock n' roll Magazine Rolling Stones website was based in part on a study started in 2001 at Boston Children's Hospital. Its aim was to determine at what volume and for how long it is possible to listen to music at a safe level with headphones.

According to the researcher, the type of headphones used is the deciding factor: "The closer they are to the eardrum, the higher the level of sound produced."

Researcher Brian Fligor noted that with headphones, we could safely listen to music with the player volume set at 6 out of 10 for one hour a day. However most of the headphones use In-The-Ear (ITE) type ear buds, such as those used for MP3 players. The duration of

listening without any danger at volume level 6 is only about 30 minutes. Brian Fligor determined that an iPod is comparable to a Sony Walkman with ITE-type ear buds that can go up to 130dB, the equivalent of a jackhammer. The European iPod, by law, is limited to 100dB.

The problem is that the hearing loss that results from extended listening to high levels of music may not become apparent until years after the auditory cells have been damaged.

Importantly, we also learn from this article, that our ears need 18 hours of rest before they return to their normal state after having been exposed to a noisy concert. The ear recovers by having blood supplied from nerve cells to the inner ear. It is worth remembering that when you smoke your blood supply won't be as good as if you didn't.

So beware...ears are precious.

Source: Audio Infos Feb-Mar 2006