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InnovationConnect (ICon) Funds Company to Help the Hearing Impaired

Attending the theatre, concerts and many other things involving sound and background noise can be a serious problem for those with hearing difficulties. It can ruin their enjoyment, or, can result in them not going out to major entertainment venues leading to social disengagement and sometimes depression from isolation.

Through the assistance of an ACT Government **InnovationConnect (ICon)** grant, better solutions are now available from Canberra company, **GPT Designs Manufacturing**.

GPT Designs Pty Ltd, a division of **GPT Audio Visual (GPTAV)** specialises in Induction Loop Systems and unique amplifiers for the hearing impaired.

It has developed breakthrough designs for its I-Amp range of amplifiers that are world class and promise significant growth and business returns to the ACT economy on a local, national and international scale. The high-tech manufacturer has used the **ICon** grant to develop a world first large drive induction loop amplifier for use in large venues such as stadiums and concert halls.

Duncan Amos, General Manager of **GPT** explained that one out of six Australians have a varying severity of hearing difficulty.



Duncan Amos, General Manager of GPT

'The ACT ICon grant has assisted with testing the latest models of hearing aid amplifiers and has sped up the path to market.'

'This proportion of our community is being neglected when compared to the commitment shown to those with other, more apparent physical disabilities. Current technology for the hearing impaired is inadequate to deal with ambient noise, in large venues such as sporting arenas and cinemas. The technology developed by **GPTAV** enables those with a hearing impairment the opportunity for a much more effective hearing experience. The technology complements a hearing aid by improving the quality of sound by filtering all ambient noise,' said Duncan.



Icon is designed to provide creative innovators and entrepreneurs with limited funding support to accelerate the progress of viable, creative ideas along the development and commercialisation pathways. 'The **Icon** grant has helped to expose the product internationally. **GPTAV** has invested substantial time and money into the I-Amp product and will continue to manufacture it in the ACT for sale both at home and in the global market,' Mr Amos said.

More About GPTAV

The company is an industry leader based in Canberra with extensive experience in audio visual integration, audio visual engineering, design services, manufacturing supply and acoustic design services.

GPT Designs manufactures the I-Amp induction loop range for the hearing impaired at its Canberra based manufacturing facility. I-Amp induction loop systems are founded on the experience of hundreds of real life projects. The I-Amp range has a five year limited warranty.



GPT Designs and the I-Amp team offer engineering advice and free limited design services for many facets of induction loop installation and integration. **GPT Audio Visual** clients include commercial, residential and government sectors.

Installation examples of audio visual systems undertaken by **GPT Audio Visual** include simple stand alone portable systems, board room/ conference room fixed installations with external control, recording and monitoring systems, large system experience such as MATV design and installation, large roll out numbers of TV/LCD/ plasma screen installations, video conferencing, electronic whiteboard installation, 3D screens and rear remote leaning screens, ceiling mounted microphone arrays, full automated control systems, digital and analogue audio systems from basic applications through to large venue and stadium applications.

More About Icon

Icon is an ACT Government grants program that provides funding for Canberra based companies and entrepreneurs.

Icon has two main funding components: Proof of Technology (pre-start stage) and Accelerating Innovation (start-up and growth).

Proof of Technology grants range from \$5,000–\$25,000. Accelerating Innovation grants are capped at \$10,000.

For further information on **Icon**, go to: [**InnovationConnect**](#). ↗