

Viola Media Services Limited

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Press Release

VMS acquires digital printing and e-book capability

Abingdon, UK 28th September, 2000 Viola Media Services Limited (“VMS”), owners of Marston Book Services Limited, the book and journal fulfilment house, are pleased to announce that they have agreed to acquire a controlling interest in Lindsay Ross International Limited (“LRI”).

LRI is in the business of digital printing and fulfilment and electronic delivery of product to a range of international clients in the learned journal, book, city research, charity and travel sectors.

The addition of LRI to the Marston Book Services business will further VMS’s aim of providing a comprehensive supply chain management service to the book and journal publishing industry. The combination of resources will provide clients of both companies with significantly enhanced facilities including the ability to ensure titles remain in print at realistic costs and to provide an unrivalled service to end users.

John Holloran, Chairman of VMS and Marston Book Services and Chairman designate of LRI, said “the synergies between the two companies are exceptional,” adding that the geographical location “is an added bonus for both of us”. He went on to say “A number of the clients of Marston Book Services have shown an interest in the concept of Marston digital fulfilment through the introduction of digital printing and this acquisition will enhance our offering substantially”.

Bob O’Shea, who is the current Chairman and Managing Director and will remain as Managing Director, said “we have been quietly going about our business of digital fulfilment and electronic delivery of product for the last ten years. The opportunities for LRI this (acquisition) brings can only be positive. We expect to enhance our existing business of digital production in mono and colour and digital asset management. We complement in a unique way the services already being provided by Marston and look forward to being a major contributor to the VMS group”.

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