

News

New LCD Design Reduces Screen Cost

A new integrated LCD design reducing the manufacturing cost of LCD flat panel display screens by 20 to 35% was unveiled at the Society of Information Display (SID) meetings.

The technology, developed by SMPTE sustaining members Thomson Multimedia, Paris, and the Sarnoff Corp., Princeton, N.J., is based on new self-scanned amorphous silicon integrated display (SASID) circuitry. This approach integrates the electronics into the LCD display itself, thereby eliminating the cost of perimeter circuitry and freeing up space for a larger, higher resolution viewing area in an existing product package.

The cost of using LCD for an average production line is estimated under \$5 million. Thomson and Sarnoff will license manufacturers and train the company's product designers to use the technology. For further information and demonstrations regarding the technology contact Roger Stewart at Sarnoff Corp. (609-734-3128) or Bruno Mourey at Thomson-LCD in Grenoble, France (+33.476.86.1012).

Harris Corp. to Provide DTV

Harris Corp., Quincy, Ill., has entered into a potential \$16 million agreement to provide analog and digital television (DTV) transmitter equipment for the 16 television stations owned and operated by A.H. Belo Corp., Dallas, Tex.

The stations include WFAA-TV, Dallas, Tex.; KHOU-TV, Houston, Texas; KING-TV, Seattle, Wash.; KXTV-TV, Sacramento, Calif.; KGW-TV, Portland, Oreg.; WCNC-TV, Charlotte, N.C.; WVEC-TV, Norfolk, Va.; WWL-TV, New Orleans, La.; KASA-TV, Albuquerque, N.Mex.; WHAS-TV, Louisville, Ky.; KOTV-TV, Tulsa, Okla.; KHNL-TV, Honolulu, Hawaii; KREM-TV, Spokane, Wash.; KMOV-TV, St. Louis, Mo.; KMSB-TV, Tucson, Ariz.; and KTVB-TV, Boise, Idaho.

Harris now provides transmitters to more than 130 stations and has recently announced plans to conduct a nationwide digital television information initiative to prepare broadcasters for the conversion to DTV.

ABC-1 Serial Digital Mobile Unit

ABC has introduced ABC-1, the network's first all serial digital mobile unit

manufactured by A.F. Associates, Inc. (AFA). The trailer measures 53 ft long and includes a 38-ft curbside expandable section for operations space. Two roadside sections expand for monitor walls capable of supporting 25 cameras. AFA installed a Sony 7000 video switcher and router system, 8-channel Scitex Brutus Dveous, Calrec 48-channel audio console, RTS Adam 128 x 128 matrix communications system, and two Dubner Graphics factory systems. The trailer is comprised of a 12 x 14 production control room, video and audio control rooms, a transmission area, and graphics control room.

JUNO to Address HDTV Standards

Tekniche, Inc., a SMPTE sustaining member has announced plans to launch JUNO, a range of high-quality HDTV up-converters, to address the television industry's required transition from standard-definition television (SDTV) to high-definition television (HDTV). The product offers advanced up-conversion with features such as aspect ratio conversion; analog and digital outputs; 10-bit resolution with 16-bit internal processing; flexible architecture; and built-in standards conversion capability. Delivery is scheduled for early 1998.

A call for papers has been announced by the International Congress on Acoustics (ICA) and the Acoustical Society of America (ASA) for their joint meeting to be held in Seattle, Wash., from June 20-26, 1998. The theme of the six-day international meeting is The Sound of the Future: A Global View of Acoustics in the 21st Century. A 200-word abstract must be submitted before October 20, 1997 and can be sent to Patricia K Kuhl, Acoustical Society of America, 500 Sunnyside Blvd. Woodbury, NY 11797-2999.

David Linick has joined the senior engineering staff at A.F. Associates Inc. (AFA), Northvale, N.J. He will be responsible for directing major systems integration projects, and will be a member of AFA's management team. Prior to joining AFA, he was the manager of audio/video systems for the ABC network. He directed the creation of ABC's first all-serial digital mobile unit and managed the reconstruction of the network's first large-scale digital production facility.

Evertz Microsystems Ltd., has announced the appointments of Romolo Magarelli as president and chief science officer; Douglas A. DeBruin, chief financial officer; and Alan Plaunt, technical director.

Magarelli previously worked for Leitch Technology holding a number of senior positions including Manager of Hardware Development.

DeBruin, also a former employee of Leitch for the past seven years, held the positions of vice-president, controller, and company secretary.

Prior to joining Evertz, Plaunt was also employed by Leitch Technology as a design engineer.

Jay Kuca has been appointed director of marketing by Graham-Patten. He is responsible for all the company's marketing activities including market research, product planning, and marketing communications. Prior to Graham, he was employed with the Grass Valley Group for 18 years holding a variety of senior positions. He brings more than 30 years of experience to the company.

Obituaries

William R. Goehner, a life member of SMPTE, passed away on August 11, 1997, at the age of 94. Goehner was an electrical engineer with Bell Telephone Laboratories when he joined the society in 1958. He was responsible for the development of electromagnetic transducers, magnetic recording media, and electro-optical devices. After more than 48 years at Bell, he retired in 1967.

James V. Washburn passed away on July 20, 1997. He joined SMPTE in 1960 and became a life member in 1989. Washburn had extensive experience as a motion picture technician. While employed with the U.S. Information Agency, he was responsible for the installation and maintenance of production and sound recording equipment in Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Burma, and Indonesia.

Harold D. Shoulders, an SMPTE member for nearly 30 years, passed away recently in Warner Springs, Calif.