

New Standard Simplifies Digital Photography

The Photographic and Imaging Manufacturers Association (PIMA) has announced the approval of a new standard to make connecting digital cameras easy. The picture transfer protocol (PTP) enables digital cameras to talk to computers, printers, and other devices using a common language.

PTP eliminates the need for camera-specific drivers for computer operating systems and other equipment. Instead, it provides one simple protocol with the flexibility to support devices such as digital cameras, photo printers, set-top boxes, and handheld apparatus. With a PTP-enabled platform and camera, users can plug in a digital camera and quickly view and use images on their personal computer or printer without installing software. It supports common device controls, such as taking a picture, so that users can take advantage of the PC/camera combination in new and different ways.

The PTP standard is also "transport independent," and can operate over many different physical media, including existing USB, IEEE 1394, and IrDA interfaces, as well as new radio frequency (RF) interfaces such as Bluetooth.

NASA Selects Telecast Fiber Systems for Digital Video

Telecast Fiber Systems has been awarded a contract to supply its Viper II fiber-optic systems hardware for the operational television video (OTV) modernization at Kennedy Space Center. Telecast's serial digital video fiber transmission systems will be used up to 10 km from various camera sites to the launch control center.

These systems support the mandatory OTV requirement to provide continued broadcast-quality television coverage of shuttle processes and operations. The serial digital video will originate from cameras remotely located at various sites throughout the space center. Telecast will provide miniature fiber-optic transmitters for

use at camera sites, along with the camera and associated equipment. A large percentage of the camera sites are located at the space shuttle launch pads and subjected to extreme environmental conditions of vibration and heat associated with the launch blast during the space shuttle initial liftoff.

Triveni Digital Authorizes Tandberg Television to Resell PSIP Generation System

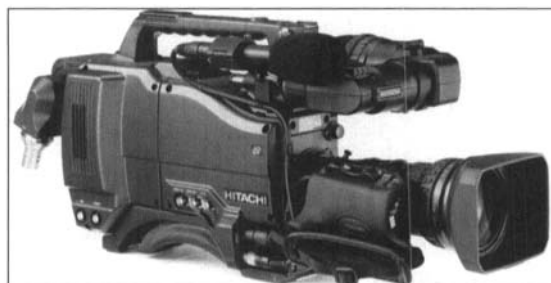
Tandberg Television has entered into a non-exclusive agreement with Triveni Digital, to resell its PSIP Builder Pro AE-10 system. The agreement allows Tandberg Television to incorporate Triveni's PSIP Builder Pro's PSIP generation and other capabilities into ATSC system configurations that are sold to television affiliates around the country.

PSIP Builder Pro generates program and system information protocol (PSIP) streams for ATSC digital television broadcast stations from a single Windows NT computer. PSIP is a group of tables applied to terrestrial and cable broadcasts, which provides receivers with program and system information. In essence, it is the roadmap a receiver follows in order to access appropriate video, audio and/or data information. The system automatically validates data formats and creates consistent data across PSIP tables without the need for manual cross-table reconciliation. Last-minute corrections such as schedule overruns of sports events, emergency news coverage, and program cancellations are also easily made with the system.

Hitachi Z-3000W Cameras Installed for Use in Higher Education

Northeastern University, in Boston, MA, and Old Dominion University, in Norfolk, VA, recently purchased Hitachi Z-3000W switchable digital cameras.

Northeastern University will replace



Hitachi Z-3000W Camera

existing equipment in its two operating television studios on campus. The cameras will be used in one of the studios as part of the University's broadcasting curriculum, which teaches students to create and produce their own newscasts, among other video production concepts.

Old Dominion University purchased the cameras for a new studio that was built as part of "Teletechnet," an interactive distance education program that enables students living in remote locations to earn bachelor's and master's degrees without leaving home. Old Dominion produces programming sent via satellite to students participating in the program, the largest of its kind in the country.

Engineering Award to Lipsner-Smith and CFI

At the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences recent engineering awards presentation, Lipsner-Smith Co. and Consolidated Film Industries (CFI) were honored with an Engineering Award for their joint development of the new Model CF-8100 Ultrasonic Film Cleaning Machine. The award recognizes achievements that exhibit a high level of engineering and are important to the progress of the industry.

In anticipation of new regulations governing the use of perchloroethylene for film cleaning, the two companies worked together to develop this high-speed film cleaning machine to provide safe and effective film cleaning using 3M Novec-engineering fluid HFE-8200. The fluid, which has zero ozone depletion and is not a VOC, achieves film cleaning results comparable to perchloroethylene.