

Calendar

SMPTE Activities

NEW YORK, NY

143rd Technical Conference & Exhibition. *November 4-7, 2001.*

DALLAS, TX

36th Advanced Motion Imaging Conference. *February 7-9, 2002.*

PASADENA, CA

144th Technical Conference & Exhibition. *October 23-26, 2002.*

For more information on these and other SMPTE activities contact SMPTE Headquarters:

Tel: (914) 761-1100

Fax: (914) 761-3115

NOVEMBER

The First International Conference on the Science and Technology of Emissive Displays, San Diego, CA. Info: Mark Goldfarb, Palisades Convention Management (PCM), 411 Lafayette St., Ste. 201, New York, NY 10003; tel: (212) 460-9700; fax: (212) 460-5460; e-mail: mgoldfarb@pcm411.com; website: www.sid.org. *November 12-14, 2001.*

ITU Telecom Africa 2001, Johannesburg, Africa. Info: International Telecommunication Union, Place des Nations, CH-1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland; tel: +41 22 730 6161; fax: +41 22 730 6444; e-mail: telecominf@itu.int; website: www.itu.int/itutelecom. *November 12-16, 2001.*

FEBRUARY 2002

National Engineers Week,

Washington, DC. Info: National Engineers Week Headquarters, 1420 King Street, Alexandria, Virginia 22314; tel: (703) 684-2852; website: www.eweek.org. *February 17-23, 2002.*

ITU Telecom Americas 2003, Buenos Aires, Argentina; Info: Piers Letcher, Press and Public Relations Officer, ITU Telecom; tel: +42 22 730 6602; fax: +41 22 730 6444; e-mail: piers.letcher@itu.int; website: www.itu.int/newsroom. *February 25-28, 2002.*

MARCH 2002

VidTrans 2002 Conference, Orlando, FL. Info: Matt Peterson, Scenic Wonders, Inc.; tel: (608) 273-4803; e-mail: matt@swonders.com; website: www.videoservicesforum.org/vidtrans/. *March 3-6, 2002.*

New Products

Camcorders

Panasonic has introduced the **AG-EZ50U**, handheld 3-CCD mini-DV camcorder. Weighing just 1.48 lbs, the palm-size camcorder features three high-performance CCDs to produce detailed, true-to-life digital video and has a dedicated image-processing circuit that allows shooting of 1,680,000-pixel high-resolution still images (1428 x 1128 resolution).

The **AG-DVC15**, a 3-CCD mini-DV camcorder, features stable shoulder-style shooting and records up to 83 min. of digital

component video on a single ultra-compact mini-DV cassette. Using an optional adapter, the miniature cassettes can be played back in all Panasonic DVCPRO studio VTRs, enhancing the use of DV video in professional applications.

Camera Snakes

New from Telecast Fiber Systems, Inc. is its **CopperHead** camera-mounted fiber optic multiplexer family. The CopperHead unit is small enough to fit on the back of an ENG mini-camera, yet powerful enough to transmit all broadcast signals to and from the camera over a single fiber-optical strand. Principally designed for use in broadcast settings, the system can also be used in a variety of other applications, such as entertainment venues or campuses.

A small but powerful fiber optic snake, the **Python Plus4**, also from Telecast Fiber Systems, is a format-independent digital distribu-

tion unit that transports four channels of serial digital video on a single optical fiber. It employs coarse wavelength division multiplexing (CWDM) techniques to combine four different wavelengths, or colors of light onto one optical fiber. Target applications for the snake include studio transmitter links, connections in and between production and post-production facilities, and SDTV/HDTV traffic between metropolitan switching centers.

Decoders

Vela has released three decoders, dubbed **CineCast HD**, **CineCast HD/1** and **CineCast HD/2**. The new single and dual-channel SCSI-based MPEG-2 decoders are exceptional DTV and HDTV solutions for broadcast, post-production, advertising, electronic cinema, and other demanding video distribution applications. The new decoders support all 18 ATSC for-



The LF-D311SC DVD-R/DVD-RAM drive.

mats defined as standard HDTV resolutions and are capable of decoding DVB- and ARIB-compliant transport streams. The systems include dual-channel stereo decoding of MPEG layer audio. They are available as standalone boards or packaged in a 1RU chassis.

DVD-R/DVD RAM

New to the industry is Panasonic's LF-D311SC, the first combination DVD-R/DVD-RAM drive. In DVD-R

mode, the LF-D311SC provides interchangeability with consumer DVD players, while in DVD-RAM mode it offers enhanced cost-effectiveness and data storage flexibility of multipass read/write operation. The multi-function LF-D311SC can serve as PC storage peripheral to deliver

hard-drive random access functionality via DVD-RAM recording and as a video recorder/player with the broad compatibility of DVD-R technology for playback on existing DVD players and DVD-ROM drives.

Projector

Another innovation from Panasonic is its PT-L711XNTU, the industry's smallest projector capable of wireless presentations. Weighing just 8 lbs, the PT-



The PT-L711XNTU projector.

L711XNTU's wireless capabilities allow for an easy setup, continuous, cable-free presentation from multiple PCs while overcoming the limitation of too few inputs and too short cabling. It offers advanced digital functions including a Digital Cinema Reality circuit for improved video payout, 10-bit digital gamma correction, and 3-D Y/C separation. Other features include one-touch "auto everything" setup, extra short throw lens, HDTV compatibility, whisper-quiet operation, and intelligent image resizing circuit.

Switcher

A new switcher, with "eye-popping" digital video effect (DVE) options and internal storage for up to 9,000 uncompressed stills, is the newest offering from Snell & Wilcox. The SD2524, like all switchers in the Snell & Wilcox "Golden DaVE" range, is available with an extensive range of options, including the ability to generate 12 individual tiles with full lighting effects. At the user's fingertips are 100 wipe patterns, five keyers, virtual ME's, and on-line framestores.

Panasonic, tel: (800) 528-8601; website: wickizerj@panasonic.com

Snell & Wilcox, tel: (408) 260-1000; e-mail: john.shike@snellamerica.com

Telecast Fiber Systems, Inc., tel: (508) 754-4858; e-mail: rcerny@telecast-fiber.com

Vela, tel: (707) 527-3300; website: www.vela.com

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, AND CIRCULATION (Required by 39 U.S.C. 3685)

1. Title of publication: SMPTE Journal
 - A. Publication No. 2852300
2. Date of filing:
3. Frequency of issue: Monthly
 - A. No. of issues published annually: 12
 - B. Annual subscription price: \$125
4. Complete mailing address of known office of publication:
595 W. Hartsdale Ave., White Plains (Westchester County), NY 10607-1824
5. Complete address of the headquarters or general business offices of the publishers:
595 W. Hartsdale Ave., White Plains (Westchester County), NY 10607-1824
6. Full names and complete addresses of publisher, editor, and managing editor:
Publisher: Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers, Inc.
595 W. Hartsdale Ave., White Plains (Westchester County), NY 10607-1824
7. Owner: Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers, Inc.
595 W. Hartsdale Ave., White Plains (Westchester County), NY 10607-1824
8. Known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1% of more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities: None
9. The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for Federal income tax purposes: Have not changed during preceding 12 months
10. Extent and nature of circulation:

A. Total no. copies printed (net press run)	9,726*	8,993**	
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1. Sales through dealers and carriers, street vendors, and counter sales	-	-	
2. Mail subscriptions	7,987*	7,561**	
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E. Copies not distributed:			
1. Office use, leftover, unaccounted, spoiled after printing	0,571*	0,357**	
2. Return from news agents	-	-	
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David Juhren, Director of Publications

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