

Avid Technology to Acquire Pinnacle Systems

Avid Technology and Pinnacle Systems, Inc., announced that Avid has entered into a definitive agreement to acquire Pinnacle in a cash and stock transaction. Under the terms of the agreement, Pinnacle shareholders will receive .0869 shares of Avid stock and \$1.00 in cash for each Pinnacle share. The acquisition is subject to satisfying a number of closing conditions, including shareholder and regulatory approvals, and is expected to close in the second or third quarter of 2005.

Following the closing, the parties expect that Pinnacle's award-winning professional products, such as the MediaStream broadcast playout server and the Deko on-air graphics system will enhance Avid's end-to-end broadcast production pipeline, which has helped Avid become a global leader in that industry. In addition, Pinnacle's consumer video business, which to-date has shipped more than 10 million units, will form the basis for a new consumer video division at Avid, providing the company with an immediate avenue into that segment.

MPEG Nation Launches Powerful Broadband Streaming Video Service for the Masses

MPEG Nation has announced a new service to encode and stream consumer and commercial video content via its worldwide content delivery network, within minutes, via a simple upload.

With the launch of MPEG Nation, it is now possible to begin streaming video from a website, blog, or auction within min-

utes instead of days. MPEG Nation's simple three-step online form allows for the selection of a number of customer options, including password protection and logging. As soon as a video file is uploaded to MPEG Nation, it is transcoded into the various internet media formats for instant streaming internet delivery. Once a file upload is complete, an http link is provided to the customer, which they can paste into an e-mail, blog, auction, or website. Clicking on the link instantly brings up their video.

Tektronix Introduces First VC-1 Advanced Video Codec Support for MTS4EA ES Analyzer

Tektronix, Inc. has announced the addition of the VC-1 advanced compression video codec, the proposed SMPTE standard derived from Windows Media Video 9, as a supported codec (compression/decompression algorithm) within the MTS4EA video elementary stream (ES) analyzer. MTS4EA ES analyzer is a software product that offers a flexible, upgradeable test solution for next and current generation video compression technologies. In addition to VC-1, the Tektronix MTS4EA ES analyzer software provides complete elementary stream analysis support for MPEG-2, MPEG-4, H.264/AVC, H.261, H.263, H.263+, and 3GPP standards. Next-generation video compression standards such as VC-1 are critical for future high-volume consumer products such as set-top boxes (STB) and high-definition DVD. Advanced video decoders such as VC-1 are finding a role as standard features of internet protocol set-top boxes (IP-STBs).

According to new studies from ABI Research, advanced video decoders will be found on virtually all new STBs by 2008, and will enable the delivery of next-generation TV services such as HD television, digital video recording, and video-on-demand to consumer television sets over existing two-way broadband networks.

Obituaries

William A. Fink, a SMPTE Life Member, passed away at his home on March 16, 2005, at age 82.

Fink was born in Pittsburgh, PA, and at age 19 was hired by the Hazelton Corp. to learn groundbreaking radar technology, acquired from Britain. In the early 1940s he was drafted by the U.S. Navy to install radar equipment on battleships in Norfolk, VA. Later, the U.S. army also took advantage of his knowledge and experience.

Fink's career in audio/visual technology began at Ampex Corp. in the late 1950s, where he introduced videotape products to the national TV broadcast networks. He was later promoted to the corporate headquarters in Redwood City, CA.

Fink regularly managed exhibits at the National Association of Broadcasters' (NAB) annual convention in cities across the country for nearly ten years. He was an integral part of the television industry's move from a focus on its own esoteric technical capabilities to an emphasis on the growing



William A. Fink

medium's potential for glamour, color, and splash.

During his career, Fink also held positions at Leitch Inc., Bosch Fernseh, and Conrac. He later founded his own consulting firm, PME, Inc., through which he offered marketing expertise to smaller companies.

Fink was a member of the Society for Information Display (SID), Audio Engineering Society (AES), the Society of Cable Television Engineers (SCTE), and the Society of Broadcast Engineers (SBE).

SMPTE has recently learned of the passing of **Philip Godfrey**, a Life Member. Godfrey, who served as Chair of the New York Section (1985-86), had been a member of SMPTE for 37 years. He was 69 years old.



Philip Godfrey

Joseph T. Parkinson, a Life Member of the Society, has passed away. He was 82 years old.

SMPTE Life Member **Ralph Teitelbaum** has passed away. A member of the Society for 50 years, Teitelbaum was 74 years old.