

Thomson Continues Momentum for North American Digital Cinema Plan

Reinforcing its global leadership in digital cinema, Thomson, through its Technicolor Digital Cinema business, announced it has reached a strategic agreement with National Amusements, Inc., a world leader in the motion picture exhibition industry operating more than 1,500 screens in the U.S., U.K., Latin America, and Russia, to install and maintain digital cinema systems in National Amusements-owned and operated screens, in line with Digital Cinema Initiatives, LLC (DCI) specifications.

The agreement calls for Technicolor Digital Cinema, as part of its previously-announced beta test, to place state-of-the-art digital projection equipment in 14 National Amusements sites, reaching 120 screens located in select areas nationwide, including the Boston, Los Angeles, and New York markets. The installations began at the new Cinema de Lux 14: The Greene in Dayton, Ohio, which opened on August 25, 2006.

The addition of National Amusements to Technicolor Digital Cinema's beta test, and its growing roster of top-10 exhibitors, is significant as the circuit comprises in the U.S., 1,066 state-of-the-art screens in high-traffic venues. The agreement with National Amusements is part of Thomson's broader rollout of complete digital projection systems in up to 5,000 screens over the next 3 to 4 years. Thomson intends to equip at least 15,000 screens in the U.S. and Canada, through the initial rollout and additional phases, over the next 10 years.

UTU Telecom World 2006

ITU Telecom World 2006, a leading global Information Communication Technology (ICT) event, will be held in Hong Kong, China, from December 4 to 8, 2006. This is the first

time that this event is will be held away from its traditional home in Geneva. Top names from the world's major ICT companies, including Cisco Systems, Microsoft, Ericsson, Fujitsu, Intel, Alcatel, HP, Qualcomm, Samsung, Toshiba, Siemens, and Motorola, and key policy makers, regulators, and industry visionaries will come together to discuss new thinking and ideas for the future growth of ICT.

Under this year's theme, "Living the Digital World," the event will explore the concept of shared digital resources for access to the vast wealth of the world's knowledge, culture, education, and learning. ITU Telecom World '06 will focus on the technologies, companies, and organizations that are driving this concept forward. The event will encompass a dynamic exhibition; a business-centered telecom village; a content-rich Forum, including a youth forum; a telecommunication development symposium; plus a host of networking opportunities and events. Mirroring the theme of the event will be the "Digital Life Theatre," a dedicated stage where futuristic visions of the digital world will be presented.

Reflecting the global scope of the event, some 600 exhibitors from across the world are expected to take part, along with up to 50,000 trade visitors from some 160 countries and 2,000 VIPs from 150 countries.

Quantum Completes Acquisition of Advanced Digital Information Corp.

Quantum Corp. has completed its acquisition of Advanced Digital Information Corp., creating a global storage company specializing in backup, recovery and archive solutions. With the close of the acquisition, Quantum will provide customers of all sizes with a comprehensive range of innovative products and services designed to meet their current and future data protection and retention needs. The combination is also expected to expand Quantum's market access.

New Products

Encoder

Harmonic Inc. has introduced the DiviCom Electra 5400, a third-generation MPEG-4 AVC (H.264) standard-definition (SD) encoder. Delivering up to four full-resolution SD channels in a one rack-unit package, as well as simultaneous low-resolution content for picture-in-picture (PiP), mobile video services, or other applications, the Electra 5400 is ideal for massive deployments of telco/IPTV, satellite, and DVB-T services. The Electra 5400 utilizes Harmonic's advanced processing engine to provide best-in-class picture quality and sets a new standard for bandwidth efficiency in SD H.264 with bit rates more than 30% lower than H.264 encoders deployed today. In addition, the density of the Electra 5400 allows operators to minimize the number of systems required in the headend infrastructure, thereby reducing capital and operating expenditures.

DVD Player

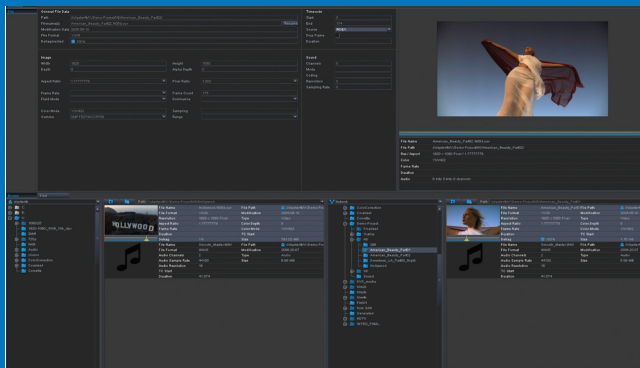
Axion has introduced a new version of the popular 9 widescreen portable DVD player, the AXN-6090A. The newly designed unit includes a SD card slot allowing viewers to show photos (jpeg format) from digital cameras or play MP3-formatted music on the card. The integrated USB port provides access for music or photos stored on USB flash drives. The AXN-6090A can also display broadcast or cable television with an optional TV tuner that is sold separately. Key features include high brightness/contrast TFT LCD screens; wide screen (16:9 aspect ratio); SD card slot/USB 1.1 port; remote control stereo speakers w/headphone jack; supports DVD, CD, and MP3 data; and three power options (rechargeable battery, wall plug, or car adaptor).

Memory Drive

Panasonic has announced the AJ-PCD20 five-slot P2 solid-state memory drive, giving users the flexibility of using either the USB 2.0 or the IEEE 1394b (S800) interface for high-speed file transfer of 25 Mbit/sec DVCPRO, 50 Mbit/sec DVCPRO50, or 100 Mbit/sec DVCPRO HD into nonlinear



The AJ-PCD20 solid-state memory drive from Panasonic.



Spycer data management software from DTS.

editing systems and servers. The AJ-PCD20 can mount five 8 GB P2 cards simultaneously (containing up to 160 min of recordings in DVCPRO, 80 min in DVCPRO50 and 40 min in DVCPRO HD), giving users instant access to all recorded content on each card. Compatible with Windows 2000/XP and Mac OS X, the AJ-PCD20 can be installed as an internal drive directly into a standard PC 5.25-in. bay drive enclosure or connected to a host computer through its high-speed USB 2.0 or IEEE 1394b interface for linkage to a local area network (LAN). As an external drive, the AJ-PCD20 easily connects with laptops (PC notebook or Mac PowerBook) for fast, in-the-field editing and playback features.

Oscilloscopes

Tektronix has announced availability of the TDS1000B and TDS2000B series of digital storage oscilloscopes, with up to 200 MHz bandwidth, 2 GS/s maximum sample rate per channel, USB flash and device ports. The 2- and 4-channel TDS1000B and TDS2000B series oscilloscopes are designed to simplify configuration, testing, and documentation for design and test engineers. The series include two PC communication software packages, Tektronix OpenChoice PC Communication software and NI SignalExpress Tektronix Edition interactive measurement software. OpenChoice PC Communication software provides a simple user interface to pull screen images and waveform data into a standalone desktop application or directly into Microsoft Word or Microsoft Excel. Using USB, an auto-detect USB plug-and-play dialog appears on the PC immediately upon connecting to a TDS1000B or TDS2000B oscilloscope. A single click of the mouse then connects NI SignalExpress Tektronix Edition to the oscilloscope to immediately begin capturing live measurement data and displaying on the PC, resulting in faster time to information and insight.

SOFTWARE SOLUTIONS

Broadcast Operations System

Omnibus Systems has introduced the iTX software-based broadcast operations system featuring IdeasUnlimited.tv's automated ContentProbe plug-ins, which offer realtime audio and video monitoring, verification, and compliance. Three realtime monitoring and compliance-checking technologies from IdeasUnlimited.tv join the robust selection of available plug-ins already available for iTX. The FaultTracker plug-in provides automatic realtime monitoring for audio and video faults, including frozen/no video, audio silence, and problems with specific logos, graphics, and idents. Automatic Failover Verification compares the main and failover channel outputs and, if these outputs differ, automatically switches to a back-up while alerting the operator and generating a fault report. Content Probe Compliance automatically records and stores all transmitted content digitally in accordance with laws and regulations governing specific broadcast markets.

Data Management Software

DVS has introduced the data manager Spycer. In contrast to conventional content management systems that only offer a web interface on multiple clients, Spycer operates as an active software on each individual workstation. It detects new clips automatically and extracts all the available metadata. It is also possible to browse high-resolution image sequences (4k) locally and via the network. This data management requires no central server or central storage system. Every workstation acts as a mini server itself, together forming the SpycerNet, a scalable content management network. The software will be an integral part of the finishing solution Clipster 2.2 and the digital disk recorders Pronto2K.2 and ProntoHD.2. Additionally, the software meets the demands of SAN technology by providing an overview of fragmented image sequences and enabling high-speed copying processes. With the most recent version of DVS-SAN, DVS provides licenses for Spycer.

Newsgathering Solution

Tandberg Television has introduced the EN5940 newsgathering solution, which combines MPEG-4 AVC HD encoding technology with Tandberg Television's latest generation DVB-S2 satellite modulator. The EN5940 makes it possible to transmit HD using the satellite bandwidths commonly used to transmit MPEG-2 SD. When used with the Tandberg RX1290 multiformat decoder, the EN5940 enables DSN operators to migrate to HD using the most efficient means of transmission available. The EN5950 is equipped with a COFDM modulator and offers a reduction in bit rate, to allow the more robust COFDM modes to be used, increasing the range and reliability of transmissions dramatically.

Axion, www.axiontv.com

DVS, www.dvs.de

Harmonic, www.harmonicinc.com

Omnibus, www.omnibus.tv

Panasonic, www.panasonic.com/broadcast

Tandberg Television, www.tandbergtv.com

Tektronix, www.tektronix.com