

New Products

Blu-ray Discs

Panasonic has announced plans for the 2006 introduction of blank Blu-ray discs (BD) in the U.S. The new discs will be available in both 50GB and 25GB storage capacities which can be used on BD drives with 2X writing speed. Four models will be introduced in the U.S. market this spring: LM-BE50DE Rewritable, 50GB, Single-Sided, Dual Layer; LM-BE25DE Rewritable, 25GB, Single-Sided, Single Layer; LM-BR50DE Write once, 50GB, Single-Sided, Dual Layer; LM-BR25DE Write once, 25GB, Single-Sided, Single Layer.

Models LM-BE50DE and LM-BR50DE utilize a dual layer structure to realize the large capacity of 50GB—more than 10 times the capacity of conventional single-sided 4.7GB DVD discs.

Camcorder

Panasonic Broadcast has announced the AG-HVX200, handheld high-definition solid-state memory camcorder. The HVX200 combines multiple high-definition (HD) and standard-definition formats, multiple recording modes and variable frames rates, and the P2 solid-state memory recording in a rugged, compact design. With the ability to capture images in 21 video formats the HVX200 records in high-definition in 1080i and 720p in 100 Mbits/sec DVCPRO HD quality. The camera records video on a P2 card as IT-friendly MXF files in 1080/60i, 30p, and 24p; in 720/60p, 30p, and 24p; in 50 Mbits/sec DVCPRO50 and 25 Mbits/sec DVCPRO or DV. The HVX200 records for 64 min in DVCPRO or DV, 40 min in 720p, 32 min in DVCPRO50, and 16 min in 1080/60 and 720/60. The multiformat camera has two P2 card slots and offers a variety of record modes including hot-swap recording to ensure continuous recording, loop recording, prerecord, one-shot record, and interval record.

DVD Recorder

Toshiba has announced the RD-XS55, multidrive (DVD-RAM, DVD-R and DVD-RW) DVD recorder, with a 250-Gbyte hard disk drive (HDD). It features an Ethernet port for system networking, allowing for greater integration with a PC, including the ability to stream copy-free recorded content or live programming to a PC; add and edit title information to personal home videos from a PC; upload custom menu backgrounds for creating DVD-R/RW discs; and remotely schedule recordings via e-mail. The system networking of the RD-XS55 also gives users the ability to move copy-free content to another room if there are two of the units in the home. Additional features include HDMI with upconversion capability to 720p or 1080i.

Image Processor

Gennum Corp., has announced the launch of the GF9351 image processor with Visual Excellence Processing (VXP)



Panasonic's AG-HVX200 camcorder.



Quantum's SDLT600A video drive.

technology. The GF9351 provides image processing for next-generation video and graphics demands, especially for 1080p HDTV displays. It enables VXP technology to be deployed in systems in which heat dissipation can be a problem, especially HD flat-panel TVs and home theater projectors. Pin-out, package, and software compatibility with the GF9350 allows an easy upgrade path for existing customers and enables a single, high-end image processing platform for a wide range of consumer electronics products.

Professional Video Drive

Quantum has announced the SDLT600A, the first data tape system enhanced for professional video, featuring a tape-based file system and network-attached storage that is MXF-aware, to provide the ideal data tape solution for today's file-based workflows. Each tape carries its own file system directory, allowing direct drag-and-drop access by applications on the network without the need for other software. With built-in Gigabit Ethernet capability, the SDLT 600A is network-attached, permitting direct access by every workstation and server on any network. Being MXF-aware enables video tape-like access to subclips by timecode, fast access to metadata stored on the tape and an unprecedented level of interoperability between applications and environments.

Switcher

Snell & Wilcox has announced the IMPAKT 3-D digital video effects (DVEs) option for the Kahuna switcher. With IMPAKT, Kahuna now offers up to four twin-channel 3-D DVEs that users can apply in either SD, HD, or both, and that work in source-based or bus-based modes, allowing both background and fill-and-key manipulation. Kahuna IMPAKT provides a variety of powerful effects including spheres, slabs, zooms, warps, tiling, ripples, rolls and peels, fragmentation, lighting effects, and corner pinning. All these options are housed in the Kahuna's compact, 11-RU mainframe, and require no additional connections or extra rack space. Kahuna's DVEs can also be timed, allowing for full key-frameable control, easy editing and pausing, and play/store recalls.

Gennum Corp., www.gennum.com

Panasonic, www.panasonic.com/broadcast

Quantum, www.quantum.com

Snell & Wilcox, www.snellwilcox.com

Toshiba, www.toshiba.com