

## Entertainment Technology Center at USC Announces Retirement of Charles S. Swartz

Entertainment Technology Center at University of Southern California (ETC-USC) executive director/CEO, Charles S. Swartz, has retired from his position at the University-based research organization. Swartz has stepped down because of health reasons; this was announced by Elizabeth M. Daley, dean of the USC School of Cinema-Television, and Bob Lambert, corporate senior VP, worldwide technology strategy, The Walt Disney Company, and current chair of the ETC-USC executive board.

Swartz took his post at ETC-USC in February 2002, when he reinvigorated and refocused the organization. Under his watch, ETC-USC's Digital Cinema Lab became Hollywood's de facto digital cinema forum, most notably hosting and supporting the Digital Cinema Initiatives work toward establishing the first digital cinema specifications. In addition, Swartz has built ETC-USC into a vital educational center for entertainment professionals, producing such events as the Digital Cinema Summit at NAB. In addition, he expanded the In-Theater Experience, the Digital Screening Series, and the Entertainment Technology Summit. Swartz also successfully laid the groundwork for upcoming initiatives related to digital content and the digital home.

ETC-USC's executive board is currently conducting a search for a new executive director.

## Snell & Wilcox and Barco Collaborate on Integrated System

Snell & Wilcox and Barco announced that they have signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to collaborate on an integrated system that offers multichannel broadcasters the industry's most advanced television-quality monitoring solution. As part of the agreement, Snell & Wilcox and Barco will cooperate during the sales process through lead sharing, combined bids, and joint project proposals. The two companies have already completed the integration of the Barco Hydra display processor with the Snell & Wilcox RollCall control and monitoring software suite and the award-winning Hyperion content monitoring system. The joint system received a strong positive customer reaction when demonstrated at the recent NAB, Broadcast Live, and Broadcast Asia trade shows.

The integration of the complementary Snell & Wilcox and Barco systems enables quality control alarm data from the Snell & Wilcox RollCall and Hyperion systems to be displayed on the Barco Hydra monitoring interface. This means that



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quality-control staff can now simultaneously monitor the audio, video, and metadata of a far greater range of channels than was previously possible with conventional systems. In addition, with integration, further automation of alarm handling and visualization will allow the operators to respond faster to minimize any disruptions. As a result, multiple channel platform operators should now be able to deliver a higher quality service offering while still benefiting from tremendous efficiency gains.

## Academy Invites 120 to Membership

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences has extended membership invitations to 120 artists and executives who have distinguished themselves in the field of theatrical motion pictures. The group will be the only new voting members invited to join the organization in 2006.

"Two years ago the Academy decided to slow membership growth, and to become even more selective in choosing members," said Academy President Sid Ganis. "Instead of inviting every proposed person who has achieved maximum qualifications for his or her branch, the membership committees are selecting the most exceptionally qualified names from those lists."

Procedures instituted two years ago, allow the organization to fill vacancies resulting from death and transitions to retired (nonvoting) status and grow by a maximum of 30 new members annually.

Candidates for Academy membership are considered by committees made up of prominent representatives of each of

the organization's 14 branches—art directors, executives, film editors, etc. Candidates can be proposed either by the committee or by two current members of each branch. In addition, individuals nominated for Academy Awards, if not already members of the organization, are considered by the appropri-

ate committees, though not necessarily invited to membership.

New members will be welcomed into the organization at an invitation-only reception on Wednesday, September 20, at the Academy's Fairbanks Center for Motion Picture Study in Beverly Hills, CA.

# New Products

## Camcorders

Panasonic Broadcast has announced the availability of the AJ-HDX900 2/3 in. DVCPRO HD camcorder. The camcorder provides 4:2:2 sampling and intra-frame recording at 100 Mb/s in 11



*The AJ-HDX900 2/3 in. DVCPRO HD camcorder from Panasonic.*

high-definition formats. It offers an IEEE 1394 digital output, which allows video professionals to connect directly with non-linear editing systems and VTRs. Weighing 9.9 lb (body only), the AJ-HDX900 uses 9-micron DVCPRO HD-EX recording to record 33 min on a 1/4 in. DVCPRO medium-size cassette and records 48 kHz/16-bit digital audio on all four channels. A standard HD SDI output is included for monitoring and line recording, and a downconverter is built-in to produce an SD output via high-quality SDI or composite, eliminating the need for an expensive SDI monitor. Other standard features include two 4-position optical filters (ND: clear, 1/4, 1/16, 1/64; CC: Cross, 3200k, 4300k and 6300k); four user scene files, three user-customized buttons; interval and one-shot recording; electronic shutter (1/100 to 1/2000 sec.) with synchro scan shutter (1/60.3 to 1/249.8 sec.); an easy-slide shoulder pad that adjusts 1.18 in. in 10 steps; and a 3-point locking viewfinder mount.

JVC has announced release of the GY-HD110U, the latest version of our HD100 series of ProHD camcorders. With the same design as the GY-HD100U, the GY-HD110U implements a number of additional features including black-and-white viewfinder display mode, simultaneous use of both eyepiece viewfinder and tri-mode LCD display when powered by Anton Bauer or IDX battery system; selectable mirror mode on vertically flipped LCD display; adjustable setting of focus assist function; choice of three image formats on composite out (letterbox, squeeze, side cut); user selectable DNR on/off menu setting; 13 segment audio level indicator; manual audio control within FAS (full auto shooting) mode; audio limiter available in manual mode; parallel power off management of DR-HD100 hard disk recorder. The GY-HD110U is able to use all accessories, including lenses and battery system

adapters, designed for the HD100 series of camcorders with no modifications necessary.

## Camera Control Panel

Telemetrics, Inc., has introduced a new version of their CP-ITV control panel. The two new models, the CP-ITV3-D100 and the CP-ITV3-VC-C4, feature 3-axis control for faster and easier camera movement. The CP-ITV3-D100 is designed for use with the Sony and Elmo PTZ cameras and the CPITV3-VC-C4 with the Canon PTZ cameras. Both panels will control up to four cameras using a proportional rate joystick for smooth and simultaneous control of the pan, tilt, and zoom functions. This is accomplished with a new joystick design that provides X-Y control of camera pan/tilt devices, with the addition of a rotating dial on the top of the joystick for zoom control.

## Data Tape Drive

Quantum's SDLT 600A is the first data tape drive enhanced for professional video, featuring a tape-based file system and network-attached storage that is MXF-aware. Each 300 GB capacity Super DLT tape II cartridge is designed to hold more than 6 hrs of high-definition (HD) content recorded at 100 Mb/s and 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 the 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.

## Monitors

Panasonic has announced availability of its 103-in. diagonal high-definition plasma monitor. With 16-bit color reproduction, the TH-103PF9UK features a Super Cinema Mode and new image-enhancing technologies to reproduce film-like motion and still images in native 1920 x 1080 progressive resolution. Features include a Contrast Management system that optimizes the contrast for each individual portion of the image displayed and a high-precision Motion Pattern Noise Reduction circuit that adjusts the image to optimize picture quality by detecting motion patterns that generate noise. The super-large plasma features a new, built-in image-enlarging function for use in creating powerful multiscreen display systems. This function allows users to enlarge images up to four times vertically and horizontally.

Westinghouse Digital Electronics has announced the HD-grade 22-in. multifunctional widescreen flat panel monitor,