

Falcon Communcations Deploys Thomson's IPTV Solutions to Launch Triple Play Services

Falcon Communications, a telecommunications systems integrator, has launched a comprehensive IPTV platform, based on an end-to-end solution featuring encoding, content delivery, service management, and access products from Thomson. The first IPTV project to feature so many elements coming from a single supplier, this deployment includes the Thomson SmartVision service management platform and multiple Thomson IP set-top boxes, as well as NetProcessor and ViBE products from the Grass Valley business within Thomson. Using Thomson's packaged IPTV solutions, Falcon Communications is addressing the market need for a practical and scalable proposition for small cable and telecom operators to rapidly and easily deploy IPTV services. The local operator market is one of the fastest growing in the U.S. telecom industry with 1,200 small incumbent local exchange carriers (ILECS) and an estimated 800 to 900 competitive local exchange carriers (CLECs).

Many of the customers served by these local operators are in rural areas, and are not passed by cable. Architected to rapidly expand access to content for customers in rural locations, the Falcon Communications platform is essentially an IPTV-head-end-in-a-box solution that allows U.S. telecommunications companies to easily offer their subscribers a multichannel television service to which they could not otherwise have access.

Pinnacle HD DVD Authoring Pack Lets Consumers Showcase Home Movies in Vivid HD

Avid Technology, Inc., has announced that its Consumer division, Pinnacle Systems, Inc., has introduced the Pinnacle HD DVD Authoring Pack as the newest feature available within Pinnacle Studio Plus. The HD DVD Authoring Pack enables users to create HD DVD movie disks—complete with HD motion menus—right within the Pinnacle Studio Plus software using current generation, non-HD DVD burners. Once consumers burn HD DVDs of their projects, they can show their home movies on available HD DVD players and HD TVs. The new HD DVD Authoring

Pack is available as an add-on for existing Pinnacle Studio Plus customers.

The HD DVD Authoring Pack completes the HD workflow for Pinnacle Studio Plus customers by allowing them to create HD DVD format movie disks complete with menus, as well as motion menus; blend a combination of HD and SD footage and still photographs to create stunning HD movies; all SD content is automatically up-sampled to the appropriate HD resolution; use a standard DVD burner to convert HD DVD format disks straight to standard DVD media; and play HD DVD disks on the Toshiba and new RCA HD DVD players and display on any HD TV.

Harmonic Enables World's First Single-Frequency Network Transmission over IP

Harmonic Inc. announced that Teledifusión Madrid, a digital terrestrial television provider in Spain, has deployed its ProStream 1000 stream processing platform to power the world's first single frequency network (SFN) broadcast transmission over an IP network. Deployed in conjunction with Telindus, a leading sourcing partner in the region that provides consultancy, integration, and maintenance services, the new SFN services were launched in Madrid in September. The IP-based Harmonic solution also includes DiviCom Electra 1000 encoders and DiviTrackIP statistical multiplexing.

Terrestrial broadcasters like Teledifusión Madrid need to



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transport content from local studios to a central headend, and then on to a number of remote transmitter sites, which requires precise timing for synchronized broadcasting. Harmonic's ProStream solution eliminates the complexities previously associated with operating a SFN architecture over IP. At Teledifusión Madrid, the Electra encoders are used to transmit content from the studios to the central headend, where the ProStream 1000 aggregates the services into DVB-T transports, which are then distributed over IP to the various transmitter sites and received by local

ProStream 1000 systems.

Harmonic's ProStream 1000 is the industry's first video processing solution that can be easily configured to provide a wide range of digital video stream processing functions—including multiplexing, scrambling, bulk descrambling, re-encoding and SFN over IP—within an integrated one rack-unit system. The Teledifusión Madrid solution was implemented in conjunction with Telindus, a leading European sourcing partner.

New Products

Camcorder

Panasonic has announced the AJ-HPX2000 P2 HD shoulder-mount camcorder. It features a native HD progressive 2/3 in. 3-CCD system that offers recording in 1080i, 720p, 480i, 576i, and a total of 17 HD and SD formats. The camcorder is switchable between DVCPRO HD/50/25 and DV as well as the new AVC-Intra codec. The AVC-Intra provides highly efficient intraframe, 10-bit encoding and can hold up to five P2 cards and provides quick, immediate access to video content from all cards simultaneously. The camera offers continuous recording, allowing users to hot swap and replace P2 cards as well as loop record without interrupting the recording. Captured video can be accessed in thumbnail clips on the camera's 3.5-in. color LCD monitor for playback, in-camera editing, and shot-marking right in the field. The camcorder also features high-speed file transfer with a variety of professional input/output options, including industry-standard IT interfaces such as IEEE 1394 and USB 2.0, as well as HD/SD-SDI for easy field recording (pool feeds), genlock, SMPTE time code, and composite video interfaces.—www.panasonic.com/broadcast

Fiber Optic Transport System

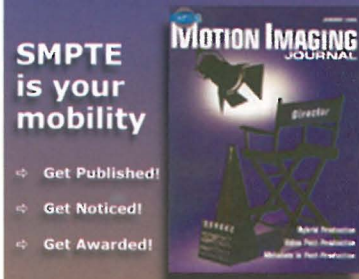
The DTV-4200 4-channel SDI and audio fiber optic transport system from Multidyne will support 4 SDI, 16 audio, or 8 AES/SPDIF channels. A one rack-unit, modular tray will house up to three DVM-4200, DVM-8200, or DIM-8200 cards. The DTV-4000 supports 24-bit stereo audio flat from 20 to 20k Hz with S/N greater than 90 dB and THD less than 0.05%. The optical budget exceeds 30 dBm. The system is available with 1310- and 1550-nm wavelength lasers for Wave Division Multiplexing (WDM) application. Coarse-WDM

is available with 1470-, 1490-, 1510-, 1530-, 1550-, 1570-, 1590-, 1610-nm wavelength lasers. Applications include links from studio to transmitter (STL), studio to studio, studio to CATV head-end, distance learning, satellite-up-and-down links, common carrier transport, Telco circuits, Intelligent Transportation Systems, and backhaul feeds from special events.—www.multidyne.com

HD Player/Recorder

Panasonic has announced availability of the AJ-HPM100, dubbed the P2 Mobile. The recorder/player allows professionals to work in both the AV and IT worlds, or in HD or SD, and links the P2 file format and baseband video. In a compact, magnesium diecast body, the P2 Mobile features multi-format recording and playback with a six-slot P2 card reader; input/output options include HD-SDI, IEEE 1394, USB 2.0; an SD memory card slot; broadcast-level editing controls, including a job/shuttle dial and audio faders; and a 9-in. widescreen HD LCD monitor with stereo speakers. The P2 Mobile offers the benefits of solid-state performance with on-the-go recording, editing, and playback, including up/down/cross conversion between 1080i and 720p and between HD and SD. Its six-card slots allow recording of continuous, extended clips in sequence onto P2 cards, or use of five of the P2 slots for recording and the sixth to output an extended playlist. The recorder/player also offers eight 16-bit digital audio channels with 5.1-channel surround sound. It weighs 14.4 lb, folds like a laptop PC for easy transport, and operates on either AC or DC power.—www.panasonic.com/broadcast

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