

## Fujitsu Introduces First H.264 Format Video-Processing IC

Fujitsu Microelectronics America, Inc., announced the industry's first large-scale integrated circuit (IC) capable of realtime compression and decompression of high-definition TV-level video in H.264 format. The MB80H50, scheduled to be released in March 2007, is based on an H.264 processing algorithm developed by Fujitsu Laboratories Ltd. The IC is designed with Fujitsu's audio and video processing technology and will be manufactured using the company's 90 nm process technology. It is the industry's first H.264 format video-processing IC to support the H.264 High-Profile, Level 4.0 standard used in next-generation DVDs. It enables high-resolution recording, playback, and transmission of high-definition video on audiovisual products such as portable A/V products, hard disk recorders, and home network equipment.

The H.264 format was jointly promulgated by the ITU-T (International Telecommunication Union, Telecommunication Standardization Sector) and ISO/IEC (the International Organization for Standardization/ International Electrotechnical Commission). To achieve its superior performance, H.264 requires very high computational loads to be processed at the time of compression. The High Profile, Level 4.0 version of H.264 used in next-generation DVDs

requires very high data-processing volumes to maximize image quality, so a high-speed IC is required for realtime H.264 compression.

## Thomson to Sell its CE Accessories Activities Outside Europe to Audiovox

Thomson has agreed to sell its consumer electronics accessories (CE Accessories) activities outside Europe and the rights to the RCA name and other accessories names in the field of consumer electronics accessories to Audiovox Corporation. The CE Accessories business develops, markets, and sells under the RCA, Jensen, Acoustic Research, and other brand names, a broad range of accessories that function with audio, video, or consumer electronics products. Audiovox will pay Thomson approximately \$50 million and will also make payments in connection with the sales of RCA-branded CE accessories over the five-year period immediately following closing of the transaction.

The sale of the CE Accessories business is in line with Thomson's focus on providing technologies, services, and systems to the media and entertainment industries and with its previously announced plans to dispose of its audio/video and accessories business worldwide.

Completion of the sale is expected to take place in early 2007.

## Obituaries

**Dennis Kimbley**, a Life Fellow of SMPTE and former president of the British Kinematograph, Sound and Television Society (BKSTS) passed away on November 18, shortly after his 80th birthday.

Kimbley was born in Camden, England, in 1926; his older brother Eric—12 years his senior—was killed while serving in the war in France. He joined the RAF when he became of age, but by then the war had ended, and he served with the Army of occupation in Berlin.

Kimbley joined Kodak in the late 1940s. He worked in the factory at Harrow in the Film Sensitizing department, before moving to the Motion Picture Sales Division, where his extrovert style was especially suited. He enjoyed visiting the European and Iron Curtain countries, and when Gordon Craig retired, he succeeded him as sales manager, staying in the department until his retirement, in 1991.

Kimbley was awarded an Honorary Fellowship to BKSTS in 1976 and served as president from 1976 to 1978. He joined SMPTE and was elevated to Fellow in 1979.



Kimbley was Chairman of the Children's Film Unit; he was on the Board of the British Board of Film Classification; and was active in the Cinema Veterans, the Cinema and Television Benevolent Fund, and the film and TV business' charitable association—the 72 Club.

Kimbley met his wife Doreen in 1950. She died in 2000, sadly just before their Golden Wedding Anniversary. His family was his first priority, and he was immensely fond and proud of his two daughters and two granddaughters—all of whom survived him. Aside from his family, his major passions were amateur theater (Both he and Doreen had been talented actors and producers.) and golf. (Courtesy of BKSTS)

**Harold Rodney Power**, a SMPTE Life Member, passed away on October 25 at the age of 94. After serving in World War II in the photographic branch of the Australian Army, he was a key figure in the formation and operation of the State Film Centre of Victoria, an organization which evolved into the Australian Centre for the Moving Image.

Power later became a lecturer at the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology, conducting classes in cinematography, and was a member of the Australian Cinematographers Society. He is survived by a son and two daughters.