

Sony Videoconferencing System with Memory Stick Video Recording



Simulated image

Sony's latest IPELA™ videoconferencing system, the PCS-G50,¹ provides a powerful visual communication tool that combines advanced audio and video technologies with useful features in a truly affordable package. Built on the same platform as the successful PCS-1 and PCS-G70 systems, the G50 adds the scalability necessary for installation in a range of environments. This advanced mid-range unit can also record conference proceedings on Memory Stick™ media for later viewing and archiving.

The G50's unique recording feature allows audio and video broadcast on the main monitor to be recorded² directly to Memory Stick or Memory Stick PRO™ media in the MPEG-4 format. Such recordings provide a perfect way to keep permanent records of meetings and can be played back on any PC using QuickTime™ media player, thus expanding the reach and effectiveness of any videoconference. A free software upgrade also gives the top-line G70 the same Memory Stick recording capability.

Filling Niche

Michael McCausland, Vice President of Visual Communications at Sony Electronics in the U.S., notes that the G50 provides 'excellent audio and video quality for multipoint calls and fills an important midrange market niche.'

This newest Internet Protocol (IP)-based product embodies the best features of the increasingly popular IPELA line. The system can be customized with a number of capture, output and display options, and is capable of delivering broadcast quality over IP networks at a maximum video transfer rate of 4 Mbps. For



PCS-G50

The G50 system features a remote control, CCD camera and a site-name display function (above) to keep track of participants during multi-point videoconferences.

higher throughput, the G50 also supports the H.264 standard as well as previous ITU-T standard videoconferencing codes for compatibility with legacy systems. In short, the G50 offers most of the advantages of big systems in a versatile and more-affordable package.

Memory Stick media can also be used to create and store private phone books for videoconferences. It allows the G50 to automatically recognize and activate desired numbers. Memory Stick media can also be used for storing and viewing captured images, PC-generated data and digital whiteboard drawings, as well as for installation of software and software updates. It can also be used to save call log files for billing purposes.

The G50 comes with a sophisticated internal Multi-Control Unit (MCU) that supports simultaneous multi-point videoconferences with six endpoint — or ten endpoints by cascading two units. It similarly

broadens interoperability by bridging mixed calls between ISDN and IP networks via speed matches for optimum speeds.

Maximized Versatility

Other key features of the G50 include a site-name display function to keep track of all the participants, data sharing, QoS (Quality of Service) support functions to maximize bandwidth efficiency, an encryption function and digital whiteboard support.

The PCS-G50 is available worldwide. In the U.S., it has a suggested list price of US\$5,800. For more information on this and other new IPELA systems in the North American market, visit www.sony.com/conferencesolutions

¹ In the above text, 'PCS-G50' refers to both the PCS-G50 (NTSC) and PCS-G50P (PAL) systems.

² AV recording is not supported when AES (Advanced Encryption Standard) is active. Also, graphical data cannot be recorded.

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Product features and specifications subject to change without notice.