



HDC User Group Newsletter No.3

Edition 3 comes with a **free** supplement on viewfinders for the more operationally inclined. Particularly relevant this month, as many operators will be struggling to follow golf balls at the Ryder Cup shortly.

We estimate there will be more than 80 HDC-1500 systems in Ireland for the event, and are conscious that the eyes of the world will be looking through our cameras.

On that subject...

Ryder Cup Support

Lee Prosser from the UK service team will be in Ireland for the duration of the competition. Lee has looked after vision mixers for many years, and has more recently taken on HDC camera systems as well. His mobile number is 07774 143884. Give him a call if you're having any difficulties. (Don't forget the helpdesk on 01256 828828, or Neil Thompson on 07774 142724 may also be able to help over the phone.)

New at IBC

HD Super Motion

We're due to start deliveries in the UK very shortly, and IBC was the European launch for the new HD Supermotion. The principles are very similar to previous generations of our slow motion system, but the amount of data to be handled has of course increased dramatically, as this is full 1920 x 1080 resolution at 150i or 180i. The fibre connection really comes into its own on this kind of system, where the data rate down the cable can be up to 10Gbps. Same fibre as the normal cameras of course, and operating range is up to 2500m.

Dedicated camera and HDCU, but the rest of the system components, VF, RCP, cradle etc. remain the same.

The HDCU is the full rack width format, so remember to leave space if you're hiring one.

The output is effectively 3 HDSDI signals, each 1/3 field apart, plus standard speed outputs, so it can be used as a 'normal' camera simultaneously.

There will be a couple of systems at the Ryder Cup so we should get plenty of feedback on the performance of the system.



HKC-T1500

Remote camera head block for the HDC-1500 camera system.

- Allows up to 50m remote connection of camera head block with main camera body.
- Can be fitted with colour or monochrome monocular viewfinder.
- All HDC-1500 frame rates and formats supported.
- Ideal for aerial / hot head/ low profile applications.



£14580

March 07 for new orders

RCP-920

- Direct button access to many controls.
- Fibre optic level meter.
- Colour temperature control.
- Compatible with HDC and BVP camera systems
- Same price as RCP-750
- Available April 07



HDVF-C950W

9" LCD viewfinder for use with HD systems cameras.

- Large display area.
- Improved lag.
- Improved colourimetry.
- Improved viewing angle.

Available around February



This month's hot issues...

Ethernet control software

The new system software has finally arrived to enable use of MSUs via ethernet. Apologies to all for the delay, but we had some problems with the speed of response over network connections. All sorted now, but unfortunately it's not a simple update via memory stick.

We were hoping to get everyone sorted in time for the golf, but given that the update requires new PLD software to be loaded via a jig to all the main boards of the CCUs, plus partial disassembly of the camera, this would probably be a bad idea. Once we've had a practice on our demo camera we'll be in a better position to say how long the procedure will take. Ideally we'd like to have a team of engineers visiting all customers and upgrading all camera systems on site in one visit.

If you can see a date in your calendar when all your 1500 systems will be back at base, please let our UK service manager know, and we'll try and put together a schedule. (Andy Rosic 01256 828828)

As a consolation prize for the delay, there are a few interesting new features included in the software, such as optical channel condition meters from the control panels, and a 2x electronic range extender for the lens. (...generally regarded as a bit tacky on stills cameras, but first reports from IBC suggest it's actually really good.)

4:4:4

Unlikely to be of interest to OBs, but 4:4:4 colour sampling is flavour of the month at the Cinematography end of the market.

A further (relatively simple!) software update will be available in the next couple of months to enable a dual link 4:4:4 HDSDI output from the camera. Recording to an SRW-1 this will make the HDC-1500 of serious interest to commercial / movie / high end drama producers.

There will be a cost for this upgrade...not sure how much yet.

HDLA locking lever

We've had a couple of broken locking levers on the front of the HDLA-1500 lens cradles. If you could take extra care locking the lens while we try and work out if there is a problem it would be appreciated. Some early units can benefit from slightly chamfering a locating pin in the camera docking mechanism. Please contact the helpdesk if you are having problems.

Audio ticking

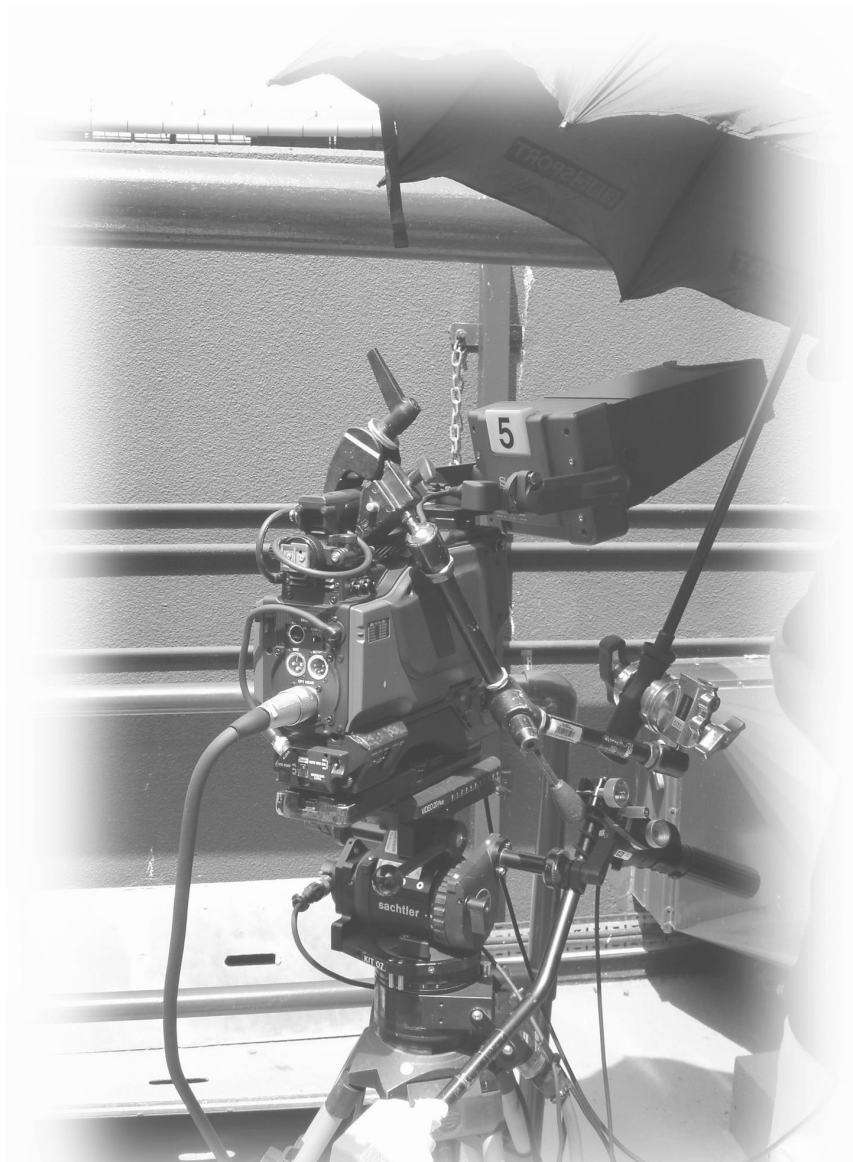
We've come across an issue with a number of HDC-1500s where you can get a 'ticking' noise on the program audio feed back from camera to HDCU. This is because of a jumper wire for a mod being incorrectly fitted on some units. Our service dept is starting a program of checking and correcting any faulty units, but in the meantime, if you need to fix any units immediately, we can send you details.

Colourimetry

There's some debate at the moment as to how closely the HD outputs should match SD cameras such as BVP series.

While we look more closely at the issue, this matrix setting for the HDC-1500s or HDC-950s, used in conjunction with either EBU or ITU-709 preset matrix, may help bring them closer together:

R-G	+37
G-B	+4
B-R	-24
R-B	+8
G-R	-7
B-G	+13



HDC-950 with T series CCD block finds some shade at Wimbledon.

Service and Tech Support:
Helpdesk: 01256 828828
Website: www.sonybiz.net/uk Register, and click on support.

General product issues, feedback and comments for the
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