TEST REPORT CLEARONE V-THERE 2200

GENERAL

The system V-There 2200 (image) is a set-top system which enables video conferences over ISDN and LAN. Included in delivery (image) are a remote control, an infra-red keyboard, an interface microphone and a manual, but unfortunately a mono to stereo adapter for the sound output is missing.

The software was available in the version 1.0 Build 84.

The video conference system was tested at the VCC from 15 of October up to 4 of November 2002.

INSTALLATION

The camera has no base plate. It is fixed with a countersink cross-head screw, a knurled head screw would be better. It also seems that the cables altogether have too little strain relief. The camera can be seperated from the codec.

After the build-up the short and concise but still very clearly designed manual attracts positive attention. Although up to now it is only available in English you get the system started very fast with the help of this manual. The only problem during the set up was to find the inconspicuous power switch on the device. It is arranged so disadvantageous and hidden that we did not see it in the beginning, particularly as it was covered with cabels.

The device has no output for VCR-Mixed-Sound. Thus only the sound of the other side can be recorded.

The available VGA output attracts positive attention.

The coverage of the keyboard and the remote control is about 5 m, which should be sufficient. The keyboard and the remote control have coloured areas where the most important buttons for this task are combined (e.g. "Conference Control").

TEST

After turning on the V-There 2200 answers with a muted microphone. Unfortunatly this is displayed with a crossed loud speaker symbol. This note is shown by a permanent flashing of the belonging image. After a reboot of the system you can only turn on the microphone within the first conference, later on at any moment while operating.

The arrangement of the help button under "Conference Control" admits the assumption it is only working during a conference which is not true. Help can be called always and in every stage of the operation, it is very well and gives sufficient answers to problems.

Because of the consequently reused combination of the colors dark green and black the software is very straining for the user. Thus the help pages are hardly readable. Another unfavourable combination of colours is the black inscription of the blue buttons in the help which are even too small sometimes.
The arrangement of the user interface into a so-called neophyte and expert mode was not absolutely successful. Both modi are usable for all users. The expert mode also admits technical specification, this shouldn't be accessible for unpracticed participants. Contrariwise the expert mode is essential for address book entries because this is entirely impossible in the neophyte mode.

In the neophyte mode suffices the simple typing of a number to reach the input field for choosing the kind of call, in the expert mode you have to elect the corresponding menu item in the menu. The neophyte mode has three input fields for the call, with the input in one of these fields the setting of ISDN or LAN is done implicitly. In the expert mode there is only one input field and an assortment box for choosing the kind of call. The first solution seemed to be more user friendly to us and suitable for both modi. Additionally in the expert mode when choosing a MCU conference with dial out you cannot enter an asterisk in the LAN mode but only in the mode "man WAN/LAN", which is not obvious directly.

The possibility of fixing predefined camera settings with the help of a small preview screen facilitates this work a lot and grants to save the 10 possible presets efficiently in a row.

The system V-There 2200 features an integrated web browser with which the user can transfer web presentations during a conference. This function took place without errors during our tests. Indeed it can happen while controlling the web browser that the mouse cursor disappears from the video on the upper screen edge which leads to some confusion. The presentations to be performed can be saved on a PC-Card.

The cooperation with other devices was all together satisfying, the sound connections were often made with G.722. The remote control operated trouble-free with devices from the firms Polycom, TANDBERG and Sony.

No connection could be set-up with the DFN-Gateway (RADVision ViaIP). TSC4 is not documented in the manual.

IP-calls after an aborted gatekeeper registration were always refused.

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**CONCLUSION**

The system V-There 2200 is a technically stable system which makes a good impression in the LAN-area. At ISDN there are still deficiencies to remedy. The user interface, however, should be revised because at the moment it adds a negative mark to the otherwise good technical impression.

**Technical Data**
Producer: ClearOne (Gentner in former times)
Distributor: MATEC

| supported standards | H.320, H.323 |
| sound coding       | G.711, G.722, G.723, G.723.1 (only at H.323) |
| video compression  | H.261, (H.263: didn't work in the test) |
| video inputs       | camera, composite, S-Video, XGA |
| video outputs      | composite, S-Video, VGA (with 50Hz) |

Thanks to the firm MATEC Dresden for the test inventory.