Sony PCS-G70 is a set-top system, consisting of a separate codec usable with a variety of ports. Codec, camera, remote control and "life long" software updates are included in delivery by standard. All other components can be purchased separately. Since recently a so-called flight case is available, making the system transportable.

The supply of up to two RGB signals (e.g. from a laptop), further microphones, loudspeakers and external output devices (e.g. beamer) is carried out by the Data Solution Box (DSB).

The design of all parts is feliculously co-ordinated, giving the camera an entirely novel look.

The device was tested at the VCC from 30th May to 10th of June 2005 with software version 1.20.

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**INSTALLATION**

The supply of the device was possible without problems. Good marking and the classification into groups belonging together logically (MIC, Audio, Video) facilitate working very much. After starting the G 70 - compared to similar systems - is remarkably quickly operable, as usual for Sony.

The configuration of the device is possible quickly and without problems.

The remote control has been revised and adapted in design to the other parts. However, it would have been desirable to design the important and often-used buttons in a different way.
The Software is very user friendly. In all the relevant places a help text is faded in, showing which button of the remote control is responsible for which function at this moment. But the help function can also be hidden for experienced users. Many of the settings can be user-defined, which makes the orientation in the extensive menu take some effort, still this effort is rewarded with a variety of expedient settings.

The printed manual is the minimal option and absolutely useless for experienced users. It is made for absolute beginners. But the electronic version is not always of help as well. The description for the supply of the Data Solution Box, for example, is very incomprehensible, so that supposedly nobody ever was able to supply this component, although this action is very easy to carry out and very well working!

When using the DSB some aspects have to be considered. The RGB input signal should not have a higher resolution than XGA, otherwise there is an error message, which, however, is not quite clear. The message "The RGB signal is not acceptable" could also have other reasons. H.239 (also called Dual Video Mode) has to be set up in the menu points [communication] as well as [video/video input], otherwise the use of this feature is not possible. The transmission to H.239 with all receivers/remote stations worked very well here. The same is true for the transmission over the RADVision MCU of the service DFNVideoConference, which went without problem, despite the information given in the manual. When holding a MCU conference with H.239 it is recommendable to log on with the PCS-70 into the conference and start the DSB only after successful dial up. If the DSB is already in operation during the dial up, there can be failures in the connection.

The T.120 standard is supported by Sony with 4CIF only in the ISDN area.

The tests with different end systems ran in good up to excellent video and audio quality. The interworking with the RADVision MCU of the DFN went very well in the IP as well as the ISDN areas. Whenever it was possible, H.264 was used. When connecting with older desk top systems there is always a smaller bandwidth used. The quality is is then also acceptable in the frame of this. The system makes it possible to show every receiver/remote station on a special monitor.

When connecting to the Polycom PVX a strangeness occurs: The PCS-G70 cannot transmit an IP signal, if both devices are registered with the gate keeper. If this IP address, however, is in the address book of the sony system, the IP signal works without problems. This occurs only with PVX, not when connecting with its predecessor model ViaVideo.

The optional omnidirectional microphone PCS-1 A1 is very recommendable. For price conscious customers there are alternative models of according quality, which then do not originate from the manufacturer.
CONCLUSION

Sony PCS-G70 is a powerful device with a high quality in audio and video conferences, offering a good price-performance ratio.

Technical Data
producer: Sony

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Thanks to Vidofon for supplying the test.