TEST REPORT SONY PCS 1

GENERAL

Sony PCS1 is a set-top system, which enables video conferences in the LAN area up to 2 Mbps and in the ISDN area up to 768 kbps. The system has a felicitous, nice design realized with a compact construction. The software version is 2.32c.

The device was tested at the VCC from the 14th until the 24th of June in 2004.

INSTALLATION

Included in delivery are, beside the accessories for ISDN and data conferences, a remote control for the camera and a manual. The integrated internal microphone of the system works, still we suggest to secure the external microphone.

The compact remote control features a joystick like main control element. One needs to get used to the handling of the remote control first, thereafter it works without problems.

The supply of the device was possible without problems. The good marking and classification in reasoned groups (MIC, sound, video) facilitates the supply much. After the start the PCS 1 is remarkable fast - compared to other assimilable systems - operational.

TEST

The software is very user-friendly. In every relevant situation a help text is shown, which declares what button of the remote control is proper for which function at this moment. For experienced users the help can be hidden. Many settings can be done user-defined. This way the orientation in the extensive menue takes some effort, still this effort is rewarded with many expedient settings.

An example of these subtle settings are the possible modi in the far end camera control, it can be prohibited in general or permitted. In the last case it can be adjusted, whether this setting is permitted when the user is calling or when he is called or in both cases. Unfortunately these settings are not combined in one menu item but distributed in three sub menues all named "far end control". This can lead to confusion if not studying the manual, which now is also available as pdf.
The telnet connection was protected by Sony with a password and is, consequently, not disposable as in the past.

The tests with other devices processed in good up to very good sound and video quality. Also the collaboration with the RADVision-MCU of the DFN succeeded. The collaboration of H.239 of the PCS1 and the MCU did not work. However, this is not the case at any other producer at the moment. Both producers work on an improvement of this situation.

The TCS4 documentation in the ISDN area is missing. Unfortunately, Sony is in good company, no producer offers such a documentation.

The data exchange using T.120 is not possible in the IP area. Hereby, PCS1 offers an own solution, which is not intermateable with other producers. Still, within the products of Sony this solution works excellent.

The concept of the memory stick enables the transmission of presentations, pictures and related things. Aside this stick can be used for a software update as well as for the upload of a personal telephone book. This way the user has access to his own adress directory wherever there is a PCS1.

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**CONCLUSION**

The Sony PCS 1 is a powerful device without major failings and good quality in audio and video conferences, offered in an acceptable rapport between price and performance.

**Technical Data**
Producer: Sony

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