TEST REPORT TANDBERG 1500 MXP

GENERAL

TANDBERG 1500 MXP - the successor of TANDBERG 1000 - is an office system. The device facilitates video conferences in the LAN area up to 2 Mbps and optionally in the ISDN area up to 512 Kbps. The software version F2.1 PAL was used for the tests.

The device was tested at the VCC in February 2005.

INSTALLATION AND HANDLING

The installation of the device was fast and uncomplicated. The monitor and the codec have an own bus bar, which increases the number of the necessary cables. Better solutions might be possible.

The dimensions of the monitor are 16:9. The monitor is by the Dell company, which is astonishing since Dell is not the usual monitor producer. Therefore, the quality of the received video is not always sufficient.

Although there are buttons of the remote control for the camera, it does not work. The camera has to be operated manually, which is surprising for a device of this performance and price range. Another point of criticism is that the white balance cannot be set. If the device is placed unfavourably this can lead to a colour deformation to yellow/green.

The standard T.120 is not supported anymore, instead H.239 (the so-called "Duo Video") is implemented. However, this function is not included in the basic equipment, the necessary hardware(called NPP) has to be bought separately.

The separator for the TSC4 direct call is an asterisk *, it is not documented at TANDBERG as it isn't at other producers.

The access to the menu dos not work sometimes. In this case pushing the cancel button helps to activate the menu again.
TEST

The use of the TANDBERG 1500 is easy and intuitive because of the well thought out user guidance together with the graphic design and the precise structure of the remote control. A button to reach the top level of the menu is missing. Also a reset button is desirable to get the default settings for all levels at once.

Especially the possibility to put the menu semi-transparently over the current video in order to be able to get statistical information during the conference or to change settings is felicitous. Thereby, it is a nice feature to be able to chance the used settings during the conference ad hoc. The chances are applied during the active conference.

The limitation of the length of the call number is negative. The input is only transmitted correctly up to twenty-eight characters. If inviting a partner to a MCU conference using the new DFN name conventions one has to save space (e.g. using one-digit supplements of the conference type and working without passwords).

The device can be equipped with an internal MCU (add-on module MS has to be bought separately). With it up to four participants can be connected.

In point-to-point conferences big problems occured with the setup of the connection with many of the desktop systems. The desktop systems of VCON were an exception; with it the quality of the sound and video were always good up to very good. Connections to other set-top systems were convincing in quality. Presentations of a PC content using TANDBERG 1500 could be received on the remote station with good quality. For presentations of the remote station it would be nice to equip the TANDBERG 1500 with an output for a video projector.

The collaboration with the MCU of the DFNVideoConference service was good. The quality of the sound as well as the quality of the video and the use of H.264 and H.239 were sufficient.

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CONCLUSION

The system TANDBERG 1500 MXP with its possibilities and the cooperation with other devices could only convince partly, regarding its price.

Technical Data
Producer: TANDBERG

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>supported standards</th>
<th>H.320, H.323</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>sound coding</td>
<td>G.711, G.722, G.722.1, G.728, MPEG4 AAC-LD (20 kHz Audio)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>video coding</td>
<td>H.261, H.263, H.263+, H263++, H264</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>video input</td>
<td>1 DVI/SXGA (PC-Input)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>video output</td>
<td>(not existing)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bandwidth</td>
<td>IP: max. 2 Mbps; ISDN: max. 512 Kbps</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Thanks to MVC for supplying the test inventory.