TEST REPORT VCON HD 5000

PDF-Version

GENERAL

The video conference system HD 5000 is a room system based on a Windows XP computer. It facilitates ISDN video conferences up to 384 kbps and up to 4 Mbps in the LAN area. The standard H.264 is supported up to a bandwidth of 1 Mbps in the IP mode.

The system is offered in different versions. Using HD 5000 only conferences in the LAN area are possible, using HD 5000i conferences in the ISDN area are possible as well. The HD 5000d possesses a table pod, which can be used for transmitting data of a laptop or a USB stick fast and straightforward. In the HD 5000 version all three options mentioned above are included, as well as three loud speakers.

The output can be carried out over a 4:3 as well as over a 16:9 display. The output adjusts to the used display, thus an optimal quality is guaranteed.

The system HD 5000i was tested in December 2004 in the VCC using software version 3.1.06.

INSTALLATION

The user does not need to install the system because the HD 5000 is a PC with corresponding video conference software which is installed already. The choice of possible audio and video components is very restricted since the software is attuned to certain products. In case of need a recovery CD is delivered containing a backup of the operating system and the VC software. This CD is installed quickly and automatically when needed.

TEST

After the first start some individual settings have to be done. Here, the user should avoid special characters since the delivered keyboard might have a different layout (German in our case) than the installed version of Windows (English in our case).

Furthermore the first user of windows - the administrator by default - should obtain a password and in addition at least one more user has to be created, better two more users. Since the second user also has administrator rights because of the microsoft philosophy, we suggest to create a third account with limited rights, which can be used for every day work. This way the system works reliably without any disadvantages.

Likewise we recommend strongly to install an antivirus protection software on the PC, otherwise it is completely unguarded in the net.

The user interface's design is similar to "Media Connect", but it is completely new programmed and does not come from the sources of "Media Connect". The handling is intuitive and immediately feasible. Up to some odds and ends the software gives a technically mature impression, e.g. the menu [configuration] shows the message "configuration changed" after every call, even if nothing has been changed.
The biggest modification compared to the previous version is the abolition of T.120. This possibility is not intended anymore in the standard version. For the transmission of data an own solution was created. This solution is named HD Dual Stream and works - according to the producer - also with TANDBERG's Duo Video. Unfortunately we could not test this case since we did not have access to such a device.

When using HD Dual Stream the application of the released PC is transmitted completely. If the remote station is a compatible device, the received display is shown instead of the video and the received video instead of the selfview. This solution is qualitatively not sufficient and cannot be recommended for every day use. Only if the remote station has a system, which enables both sides to use XGA for data transmission, the quality is very good. HD Dual Stream is completely inappropriate for connections with desktop systems of other producers.

Although the video of the remote station can be zoomed very small, a complete closure during the data transfer is not possible, so that a part of the data application is always overlapping.

The quality of audio and video connections can always be regarded as good up to very good, still the dial-in took very long sometimes (up to 14 seconds).

The use of the system backup is not really complicated, but not as easy as expected. After the backup some settings concerning the operating system have to be done; particularly Windows has to be registered again before use is possible. After that everything runs normally.

---

**CONCLUSION**

The system HD 5000 is a room system, which can be recommended for the use in the audio and video area. All bigger arising errors are due to the underlying operating system and its weak spots. Here, the producer might find a more user-friendly solution. The missing T.120 component is not very convenient, this fact restricts the possibilities of the use concerning the "cooperative work" much.

**Technical Data**

Producer: VCON
Distributor: Pan Dacom

<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.723.1, G.728</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>video compression</td>
<td>H.261, H.263, H.264 (up to 1 Mbps; only IP)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Thanks to VCON and Pan Dacom for the test.