

Polecam press announcement, 2008 February 18

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POLECAM TO INTRODUCE COMPLETE HD CAPTURE SYSTEM AT NAB 2008

Polecam will introduce three major additions to its range of high-precision mobile camera equipment on booth C8137 at the 2008 NAB Show in Las Vegas, April 14-17. A complete HD capture system comprising a miniature HD zoom camera, a solid-state HD field recorder and Polecam's unique single-operator broadcast-quality camera crane will be shown and demonstrated. A production version of Polecam's Fishface submersible camera head will also be introduced.

New: Polecam with Camera Corps HD MiniZoom

Easy to transport and quick to set up, the Polecam camera rig is ideal for use with miniature HD camera heads. The latest-generation HD MiniZoom camera from Camera Corps is a miniature broadcast-quality 720p/1080i 50/59.94 Hz HD camera with integral remotely controllable zoom lens. Measuring just 96 x 49 x 45 mm, the camera incorporates a 1/3 inch 2 megapixel CMOS sensor with 10 x zoom lens (5.1 to 51 mm) in a weatherproofed aluminium housing. Total weight is just 285 g. The HD MiniZoom has very low power consumption (3.8 W at 6 to 12 V DC) and can be used in full auto mode with the lens at wide angle. An auxiliary interface provides all the necessary data decoding to allow full manual control of iris, zoom and focus via a small LANC controller. An optional remote CCU panel allows manual control of paint and detail. The HD MiniZoom delivers >50 dB signal-to-noise ratio (12 lux minimum illumination at F1.5). The two-piece aluminium housing is protected to IP65 standard, allowing safe operation in heavy rain or high levels of windblown dust.

New: Flash XDR HD Xstream solid-state data recorder

The world's first CompactFlash-based ultra-portable high-definition recorder, the Flash XDR adds full high-definition digital video and audio storage facilities to the Polecam system. Measuring just 178 x 127 x 44 mm and weighing only 500 g, the recorder requires no internal fan and is completely silent in operation, rugged and extremely power-efficient. It is housed in a rugged aluminium chassis with a rubberised protective jacket and can easily be mounted to Polecam in tripod-based or harness-based configuration. The Flash XDR recorder stores up to 164 minutes of 50 Mbit/s MPEG 4:2:2 1920 x 1080 pixel HD video, embedded or external audio plus timecode in MXF file format, on four hot-swappable 16 Gbyte CompactFlash cards. 32 Gbyte cards are now available at less than \$180 with 64 Gbyte cards due very soon. The recorder also supports MPEG2 4:2:2 at 100 and 160 Mbit/s as well as HDV over IEEE 1394. Operating features include a pre-record buffer, audio/video adjustment, 1080i

60 to 1080p 24 conversion, user-selectable RAID 1 redundancy, XML-based metadata handling and six programmable function keys. Being solid-state, the recorder is far more robust than disc-based and tape-based mechanisms. It can also be switch to I-frame-based timelapse mode for wild-life applications.

New: Fishface submersible pan and tilt camera housing

Long available as a rentable-device supported by back-to-base service, Polecam's Fishface has now been ruggedised and is available for purchase. FishFace can be used to a depth of 4 metres (13 feet) on the Polecam or independently down to 10 metres (33 feet). Polecam's carbon fibre support arm incorporates drainage holes which allow the boom to flood and clear quickly. FishFace has 360 degree pan capability and the same fully unrestricted movement as a standard Polecam dry head. A prototype FishFace was used to televise diving at the Athens Olympics. Newly-added features on the production version include a split O-ring cable gland which can be used to seal cables without having to break existing connections. A new domed port allows parallax errors at the air/water junction to be corrected. Also new is a fully sealed one-piece pan/tilt gearbox. The only maintenance procedure needed to keep Fishface in optimum condition is to wash off salt water if operated in a saline environment.

US market launch: Polecam with Toshiba IK-HD1E HD camera

Making its first US market appearance, the combination of Toshiba's IK-HD1E three-CCD camera fixed-focal-length camera and a Polecam rig allows outstandingly high quality 1080i 50/60 Hz coverage of live events while retaining full versatility of camera movement and shooting angle. The IK-HD1E incorporates 1/3 inch interlaced sensors and accepts standard C-mount lenses. Sensitivity is 2,000 lux at F7.4 (>54 dB SNR) increasing to 13 lux at F2.2 with +18 dB gain. Features include five scene file memories, manual or automatic white balance (including auto-white tracing), manual and automatic sensitivity control, and RS-232C control interface. Head dimensions are 33 x 39 x 41 mm, 65 g. The camera controller delivers HD-SDI, analogue RGB or Y/Pb/Pr and consumes 10.3W at 12V DC. Controller dimensions are 110 x 186 x 40 mm, 730 g. Head and controller can be operated at temperatures of 0 to 40 C and up to 90% ambient humidity.

Polecam was established in 1998 by extreme sports cameraman/director Steffan Hewitt. While directing a series of windsurfing kit commercials in Hawaii, he needed to obtain close, wide-angle front shots of a windsurfer in action, shot from a tracking boat or jet ski. He improvised a rig comprising a miniature camera on a carbon fibre windsurfing mast. Returning to Britain, he developed a lightweight go-anywhere rig with a remote joystick-controlling a high precision pan and tilt head. Polecam now sells successfully around the world from its base near Bedford.

Accompanying 300 DPI JPEG image:

Polecam USA recently participated with CP Communications in a live-to-air HD test for Fox Television at a National Football League (NFL) game between the New York Jets and Philadelphia Eagles. The Polecam was used wirelessly with an Iconix camera shooting 720p and a wireless RCP (remote control panel).

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