

EVENTS IN MIDDLE EAST TAKE SATELLITE NEWSGATHERING TO NEW HEIGHTS

Submitted by: Livewire PR

Thursday, 20 March 2003

Livewire Digital, leader in remote broadcasting technology, reports volume sales of Voyager Lite laptop-based video store and forward solutions

ITN, APTN, Sky News, Reuters, GMTV and Fox TV are just a few of the rapid response TV news teams keen to provide real-time coverage of events in the Middle East that have recently purchased over 50 Livewire Digital Voyager Lite systems - the highly compact, laptop-based video editing and store-and-forward satellite newsgathering unit (<http://www.livewire.co.uk>). Weighing just 2.5 kilos, Livewire's Voyager Lite portable video store-and-forward system can be deployed and operated by a single reporter in harsh remote locations on land, at sea, or in the air, and used to film, edit and transmit breaking news from the field back to the TV station in real-time.

A complete portable editing system, Voyager Lite can be carried by hand and can operate off its internal batteries. Breaking news footage can be transmitted via Inmarsat, Ku/C band uplinks, ISDN, standard telephone lines or via the Internet. Along with the digital video capabilities, Voyager Lite offers full access to email and the Internet, linking the field operative with the office at all times of the day.

Livewire Digital commands a leading share of the global satellite newsgathering market, and is the only company to offer a complete solution incorporating hardware, software and support. The latest version of Voyager Lite offers support for Pinnacle's Purple and Avid's DV Express non-linear editing software, which enables news reporters to professionally edit reports in the field reducing the amount of footage transferred and cutting significantly the satellite airtime required for breaking news.

Tristan Wood, Managing Director, Livewire Digital commented, "The integration of the best editing packages with the Voyager Lite equipment takes remote reporting to the next level, where field reporters can edit their material as if they were in a top quality editing suite. It is a huge improvement on previous versions where 'crash recording' [simple start-stop editing] and 'top and tailing' [cutting pieces from the beginning or end of footage] were the only ways of editing material. An additional benefit of the Voyager Lite is that less material needs to be sent via satellite, reducing the costs of newsgathering in extremely remote locations."

Voyager Lite operates with an i.Link (Firewire/S200/ IEEE1394) compatible DV camera such as the SONY DSR-PD100P and guarantees compatibility with a wide range of models through use of the SONY VAIO notebook PC. Voyager Lite can be used with video equipment such as a BVW50 or DVW700 simply by transferring the material onto DV using the analogue ports provided by the DV camera.

The system uses software compression techniques to generate fully compliant MPEG-1 or MPEG-2 streams in the range 128kbps to 15Mbps. The very latest professional quality MPEG-4 encoding techniques will be available later this year following ratification of the standard that is expected to take place in June 2003.

"Wherever there is a requirement to transmit breaking news stories, Voyager Lite can offer a compact, lightweight facility that can be deployed rapidly and in the most remote and challenging environments"

concludes Tristan Wood.

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Issued: 20.03.03 Ref: LD075.doc

Note to editors: Livewire Digital will be exhibiting the Voyager Lite and its new features at NAB (National Association of Broadcasters) media show, Las Vegas 7-10 April 2003 and at the IBC exhibition, Amsterdam September 2003.

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Arrange interviews with Livewire Digital

Arrange demonstrations

Prepare articles

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