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## MIT Launches One Videoconferencing System per Child (OVPC)

Nicholas Nery of The Manchurian Institute of Technology thinks everyone in the world should have a videoconferencing system. The world famous professor, author, researcher, and diplomat has launched the non-profit OVPC organization to design, manufacture, and distribute the world's most affordable videoconferencing system, priced at less than \$100 and aimed at youngsters in the developing world. With moisture-resistant seals and a crash-proof hard drive, combined with built-in WiFi, colorful cables and connectors, solar panels for mobility and power generation in remote areas, and a high definition camera, this hardly-no-frills system supports 720p video and Siren-14 stereo audio. Prototypes of the SIP-based, H.264-compliant device are due to ship in Q4-08. The company is concentrating on serving populations in underdeveloped and/or war-torn regions of Western Africa, South East Asia, and Texas.



## News in Brief

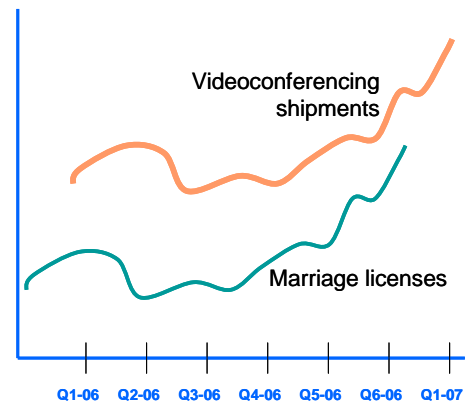
- InterConference, one of the world's largest and most successful Conferencing Service Preventors, has launched a new service feature that enables audio conference participants to multitask more easily. The system randomly interjects "oh yes" or "ah ha" or "I see" comments whenever it detects a pause in the presentation or conversation, thereby giving the conference host the re-assurance that participants are indeed paying attention. During the easy and intuitive seven-click set up, conference invitees can choose from nine different voices and 14 different accents to personalize their voice avatars. Multi-tasking during audio conferences is a time-honored tradition for InterConference users and has been shown to lead to an actual decrease in IQ for information workers.
- A new version of TMS, the Telephone Management System offered by Netherlands-based TinyBrain, has added several important new features and functions based on the company's extensive experience with videoconferencing in the 1990s. TMS V17.6 now sports the ability to place test calls automatically 15 minutes before every scheduled audio conference and to notify administrators if any phone is not working.
- A recently-released report by WR provides an in-depth comparison between 1) visual communications and collaboration productivity using NetMeeting and 2) the experience possible with a high definition, H.239-capable videoconferencing system configured with dual 50-inch plasmas. The scientific study was sponsored by a large pharmaceutical company who requested anonymity and who remains one of the world's largest users of NetMeeting. The pharma giant believes NetMeeting is directly responsible for faster time-to-market for many of

the company's innovative shampoos. While NetMeeting is slightly less expensive to deploy than HD systems with twin 50-inch plasmas, our extensive research found that most enterprise users actually preferred the HD experience overall. These unusual results demonstrate once again that you can never predict in advance what unbiased research will discover.



- Cosco has jumped into the red-hot telepresence market and introduced a personal telepresence system that works over cellular networks. Unlike telepresence systems from Cisco, HP, Polycom, and others that claim to deliver life-size images and superb audio and video, the Cosco system is totally portable and does not require special tables and chairs. The company claims that the Cosco Telepresence Meeting Experience 5000 (TME 5000) is the first system to address carbon neutrality and the effects of global warming since it does not require meeting participants to travel to a telepresence suite. Because the system avoids the use of large flat panel plasma displays, Cosco's TME 5000 is very energy-efficient, a factor that also contributes to a decline in carbon footprint. The 1080p screen built into the hand-held device can display up to one frame per second, depending on available bandwidth and assuming that no participant in the camera view is actually moving or speaking. According to the Green Calculator on Cosco's web site, if all the people registered as Republican voters in North America were to switch to the TME5000 instead of taking business trips, it would be equivalent to taking 5,000,000 cars off the road for 1,000 years every day.

- New research from the Oslo Stock Exchange Equity Partnership Consortium for Wealth Creation (OSEEPCWC) has discovered an astonishing correlation between two seemingly unrelated economic variables. As it turns out, the number of marriage licenses issued in Albania is an excellent leading indicator for worldwide shipments of videoconferencing units. As our graph shows, videoconferencing unit shipments tend to lag Albanian marriage license applications by about two quarters (six-nine months) with a near-perfect correlation. This uncanny discovery has impacted the financial markets in both Europe and North America, where savvy financial analysts at the First Bank of Norway and the Second Bank of Sweden and the third Bank of New York no longer need to perform channel checks at the end of each quarter.



- Wainhouse Research has expanded its European staff to focus more energy on the unique issues facing Conferencing Service Preventers. Our new analyst will be working out of the new office in Maidenhead, UK reporting over ISDN video to our CSP Practice Manager Marc Beattie.
- CSP Deuteronomy Conferencing has inked a deal with the US Government to support that organization's world-wide audio and web conferencing needs. Unlike many deployments where collaboration tools are used to share knowledge, this services contract is focused on sharing ignorance and folklore.



- M-soft has introduced an ROI calculator on its web site so that information workers can calculate how much postage they have saved their company by using email.
- The Saskatchewan Telemedicine Network reports the first use of HD telepresence systems to support a remote circumcision. New moynals in Saskatchewan were able to cut into the expertise of experienced pediatricians in Ontario using high speed Internet connections.

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