

press release



Latest CLIÉ Handheld offers DECUMA handwriting recognition, wireless networking and audio/video entertainment to take PDA market to new levels

Brussels, 4 June 2003 – Nowadays, professionals on the move ask a lot of their personal organisers – and this new Sony CLIÉ Handheld (PEG-NX73V) provides the answers. This latest slim-line model incorporates the new DECUMA Input handwriting recognition tools and also boasts a Bluetooth™ module for the creation of personal wireless networks, plus a CompactFlash™ (CF) Card slot. Compatible with Sony's optional Wireless LAN Card (PEGA-WL110) and CF Memory Card, this allows users to take advantage of larger-scale cable-free networks and facilitates Internet surfing (with the bundled NetFront v3.0 for CLIÉ browser) and emailing. Since the retractable slot supports CF Memory Cards* too, it gives users the flexibility to store and transfer mail attachments and other content and to browse Microsoft® Office documents via the supplied Pictel Viewer for CLIE application. To further enhance freedom of movement, the PEG-NX73V boasts a longer battery life than earlier OS5 models, as well as an “unzip” function in the CLIÉ Files application that lets users directly unzip the compressed files they've downloaded. What's more, the digital camera that's built into the chassis can turn through 300° as it captures videos and stills, while the newly designed flip-and-rotate high resolution screen can swivel through 180° to make it easier to use the variety of inputting methods available. Users can select to input data via the integrated backlit keyboard (that's large and visible enough to be used in

For more information, please contact
Matthias Colli Corporate Communications Europe Sony Europe GmbH tel: +49 30 2575 5158
fax: +49 30 2575 5174 email: Matthias.Colli@eu.sony.com www.sony-europe.com/presscenter

In addition, for any queries about Sony in your respective country, please contact your local Sony PR office

comfort) or via the retractable stylus that takes advantage of DECUMA's innovative OnSpot handwriting recognition technology – allowing even first time PDA users to effortlessly and intuitively enter text without having to learn a new way of writing. The video and audio software provided can be controlled via the Jog Dial interface, while AV files can be stored and transferred via Memory Stick using the integrated slot. Powered by a 200 MHz processor, the PEG-NX73V runs the reliable and easy-to-use Palm OS® 5 (incorporating a range of personal management tools) and includes a host of pre-installed applications to make sure that it's ready to use immediately after purchase. As Dimitris Kourepis, General Manager for CLIÉ Handhelds points out: "This third-generation NX model reaches new levels of usability and functionality. The design incorporates improved hardware features and software upgrades, allowing users to roam more freely, to go about their business more easily, and to enjoy their entertainment applications and leisure-time more fully."

A better view

To make it easy to use, the restyled flip-and-rotate screen of the PEG-NX73V pops up and swivels through 180° and delivers high resolution (320 x 480 dots) full colour images. This optimises picture quality, reduces scrolling and helps make the model an ideal choice for those wanting to play video-games with Sony's optional Game Controller (PEGA-GC10). Once the screen has pivoted on its axis and been folded back onto the main body of the unit, the PEG-NX73V sits neatly in the supplied USB cradle that facilitates data synchronisation with PCs. A similarly-enabled cradle (PEGA-SPC100K – available as an accessory) has the added advantage of a built-in speaker, so users can enjoy their ATRAC3 and MP3 music files via Memory Stick while charging the CLIÉ Handheld at the same time.

Accent on audio

The PEG-NX73V itself can be used as an audio player for ATRAC3 and MP3 files, since users can playback their tracks on the stereo headphones provided – even while other applications (such as Calendar and Address Book) are open. The volume is adjustable via the Jog Dial, which can also be used to interact with other applications and to retrieve data. This CLIÉ operates as a voice recorder too, capturing up to 520 minutes (using Long Play Mode) of memos and reminders on a 128 MB Memory Stick.

Caught on camera

The integrated 310,000 pixels digital camera with 2x digital zoom lens is an excellent tool for professionals and amateur photo-enthusiasts needing instant images or video clips. Users can take snapshots or mini-films using the quick-click capture button and the stills can be viewed via CLIE Viewer and annotated with comments using the Photo Editor tools. Captured images can be transferred to other devices using the Memory Stick slot, or sent via email using the model's WLAN facilities or Bluetooth™.

*CF Memory Card may have limited functionality. Please refer to the CLIE website for further information

ENDS

Sony Connectivity

Sony products are the essence of simple connectivity. They are designed to connect quickly to each other and to the world beyond so that every owner, from the novice to the enthusiast, can easily enjoy the benefits of digital networking. For example, you can create, edit and share your own movies using GigaPocket on a VAIO and transfer it to a Clié to view on the move. You can shoot, view, store and print your own digital photos with a Clié, a VAIO and a video printer or display the photos on your television, cable free, using a Memory Stick. Such simple connectivity creates a bridge between the worlds of AV and IT and gives the user complete control over their digital environment.

About Sony Europe:

Sony manufactures audio, video, communications and information technology products for the global consumer and professional markets. With its music, pictures, game and online businesses, Sony is uniquely positioned to become a leading personal broadband entertainment company in the 21st century. In Europe, Sony recorded consolidated annual sales of EUR 13.88 billion (yen 1,666 billion) for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2003, based on an average market exchange rate for the same period of yen 120 to the EUR. Sony Europe, headquartered at the Sony Center am Potsdamer Platz in Berlin, is responsible for the company's European electronics business and registered consolidated sales of EUR 8.62 billion for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2003.

Within Sony Europe, Sony Information Technology Europe is responsible for the VAIO PC and computer displays businesses in Europe. Sony ITE's homepage can be found at www.vaio.sony-europe.com.

Main Specifications:

MODEL	PEG-NX73V
OPERATING SYSTEM	Palm OS® 5 (ver5.0)
CPU	PXA263 200MHz
MEMORY	16 MB (RAM) (11 MB available) / 32MB (FLASH)
INTERFACES	Built-in keyboard, USB cradle (1x), Infrared/IrDA (1.2) (1x), "Memory Stick" Slot*1 (1x), Compact Flash™ Card Slot (Compact Flash™ Type II)*2, Bluetooth (x1).
APPLICATION BUTTONS	Date Book • Address • To Do List • Memo Pad • Up/Down
AUDIO FUNCTION	Audio frequency: 20 Hz to 20 kHz Recording Time in 128 MB Memory Stick*3 ATRAC3: 120 minutes at 132 kbps, 160 minutes at 105 kbps, 240 minutes at 66 kbps MP3: 65 minutes at 256 kbps; 130 minutes at 128 kbps; 170 minutes at 96 kbps Audio playback format: MP3, ATRAC3 Sampling Frequency: 44.1 kHz (MP3) Output Connector: Headphone stereo mini-jack
VOICE FUNCTION	Voice Encoding/Decoding Format: IMA ADPCM (1ch, 4 bit) Voice Recording Sampling Frequency: SP: 22kHz; LP: 8 kHz Recording Time in "Memory Stick" (128 MB): SP: Approx. 190 min.; LP: Approx. 520 min.
CAMERA FUNCTION	Effective pixels: Approx. 310,000 pixels Image pickup device: 1/5.5 inch CMOS image sensor (370,000 Gross pixels in total) Lens: F2.8/f=2.6mm (35mm film conversion approx. 34.3mm) Focus range: 0.3 m to infinity Lens rotation angle: 300 degrees Recording Size: Still picture (jpeg) 640x480, 320x240, 160x120, 320x480 (vertical) / Movie: 160x112. Image Recording Format: JPEG (DCF Format) Movie Recording Format: "Movie Player"format (MPEG4 compatible) Brightness Control: Variable between 5-steps White Balance :Auto/ Outdoor/ Indoor A (Incandescent)/ Indoor B (Fluorescent). Picture Effects: Sepia/ Black & White/ Negative Art/ Solarisation. Self-timer Function: 10 seconds (still picture only).
DISPLAY	TFT colour display with backlights, 320 x 480 dots, 65,536 colours
SPEAKER (BUILT-IN)	Monaural
DIMENSIONS (W X H X D)	Approx. 71.9 x 131.5 x 21.8 (mm)
WEIGHT	Approx. 230g (incl. supplied stylus)
BATTERY	Internal lithium-ion polymer rechargeable battery Up to 14 days - based on an average use of 30 minutes per day, with back light set OFF. (The battery life varies depending on temperature and conditions of use).
SONY SOFTWARE	CLIE Launcher, Audio Player, CLIE Camera, Movie Recorder, Movie Player, CLIE Viewer, CLIE Album, Photo Editor, Voice Recorder, Memory Stick Backup, Data Import, CLIE Files v1.1 (unzip function), PictureGear Studio (for PC), SonicStage (for PC), Sound Converter 2 (for PC), Sound Utility, World Alarm Clock, PhotoStand, CLIE Demo, CLIE Memo, CLIE Remote Commander, SMS, Telephony Library, CLIE Mail, CLIE Camera, Image Converter (for PC), Giga Pocket Plugin (for PC), CLIE Album Plugin (for PC).
PALM™ ORGANISER APPLICATIONS	Address Book, Date Book, To Do List, Memo Pad, Card Info, Calculator, Security, Palm™ Desktop v.4.1 (for PC), Prefs, Welcome, Hot Sync, Launcher, Graffiti.
VALUE ADDED SOFTWARE	Decuma, Pictel Viewer for CLIE, Net Front v3.0 for CLIE, Acrobat™ Reader (Adobe Systems, Inc.), Intellisync™ Lite (Pumatech, Inc.), QuickTime™ (Apple Computer, Inc.), Macromedia Flash Player 5.
SUPPLIED ACCESSORIES	USB cradle, AC adapter, AC cord, stylus, stereo headphones, remote controller, Installation CD-ROM, Hand strap, operation manuals, Graffiti Stickers.

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS	
OPERATING SYSTEM	Microsoft® Windows® 98 Second Edition Microsoft® Windows® Millennium Edition Microsoft® Windows® 2000 Professional Microsoft® Windows® XP Home Edition Microsoft® Windows® XP Professional Edition
CPU	Pentium II 400 MHz or faster is recommended
STANDARD MEMORY	96 MB RAM minimum, 128 MB or more is recommended. 256 MB or more recommended for Windows® XP.
HARD DRIVE	200 MB available, 350 MB or more recommended
INTERFACE	USB port, Mouse or similar pointing device
OTHERS	CD-ROM drive
DISPLAY	800 x 600 dots or higher, high-colour or better

GUARANTEE	1 year from date of purchase
WEB SITE	www.sony-europe.com/clie

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*1: "Memory Stick" media sold separately. This product is compatible with "Memory Stick", "MagicGate Memory Stick", "Memory Stick Duo", "Memory Stick PRO",. Capacity transfer speeds, and other "Memory Stick PRO" features vary by and are dependent upon the design of host hardware devices. Please refer to the CLIÉ support website for further information.

*2: Compatible with Sony's wireless LAN card and selected CF memory cards. CF memory cards may have limited functionality. Please refer to CLIÉ support website for an updated compatibility list of CF memory cards.

*3:ATRAC3 is available Magic Gate Memory Stick only.