



Awards for Year 2006

**The Aethra Vega X7 high definition (HD) visual communication system has been selected for the 10 Best New Videoconferencing Systems of the year 2006.**

**15 January 2007.** Aethra SpA announced its high definition (HD) visual communication system - the Aethra Vega X7 at its Worldwide Partner Conference in Venice in October 2006.

The Aethra Vega X7 high definition (HD) visual communication system will be available on the market worldwide starting in Q1 2007.

Aethra's new Vega X7 HD solution has been designed specifically for video meetings with high definition video. The Aethra Vega X7 VC system provides users with higher resolution video, enhanced colours, sharper images, and better audio and performance.

Aethra believe that 720p as used in the Vega X7 is perfect for videoconferencing purposes. But as a forward-looking company, it take seriously into account a possible move to a 1080p solution at some time in the future.

Aethra's Vega X7 is compatible with video conferencing systems from other manufacturers, as it supports both wideband audio codecs - G.722.1 Annex C and AAC-LD. For Aethra's new Vega X7 HD solution, the suggested bandwidth is 768 kbit/s and at this bit rate performance levels are optimal. However Vega X7 is also able to carry out video meetings at lower bandwidths as demonstrated at its Partner Conference. For a point-to-point meeting, it is possible to connect at just 512 kbit/s. When asked how they achieved this high performance Aethra told us they used multiple Philips Trimedia DSPs.

Aethra says HD video provides TV-like images thanks to its higher resolution and the wide screen 16:9 format. The life-like quality of High Definition video communications creates a more natural and human environment, perfect for improving interpersonal relations and increasing productivity.

Aethra's new Vega X7 HD solution is equipped with a HD-SDI connector that connects with the HD 16:9 camera included in the package. This cutting-edge rack-mounted codec provides the highest quality videoconferencing for customized deployment in rooms of all sizes.

Power Point presentations and data sharing is as convenient as on Aethra's SD VC systems. The Aethra Vega X7 provides XGA input and output ports for simultaneous dual-stream video for live PC presentations. The integrated Multipoint Conferencing Unit (MCU) connects up to 9 sites in mixed mode (ISDN, IP-H.323 and IP-SIP), with convenient dial-out and dial-in (Meet Me) configuration. The Continuous Presence feature enables participants at all sites to view each other simultaneously. The Vega X7 HD VC system can be integrated into existing conference rooms with audio and video facilities or customized solutions.

Marco Viezzoli, CEO of Aethra stated: "This is an exciting time for videoconferencing as video communications continues to get better and more life-like. As the world faces more and more problems like terrorism and global warming, we are committed to studying and developing new innovative solutions, investing a great deal into research and development, so we can contribute to overcoming these barriers. High definition video has a human component to it, allowing people in remote locations to maintain excellent relations without having to worry about the consequences of traveling." When we asked for more information on the Aethra HD system in an interview in December 2006, Marco Viezzoli, CEO of Aethra, replied: "At the moment we would prefer not to disclose too much about our HD solutions, but you can expect us to be very effective in terms of the features/price ratio!". So that is all we know so far. Be prepared for a good surprise from Aethra at the end of Q1 2007.