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Foxtel and Sony spar on 3D content supply

THERE IS NO POINT BUYING A 3D TV IF YOU DON'T HAVE FOXTEL. THAT'S THE SALIENT MESSAGE FROM FOXTEL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF SALES AND PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT PATRICK DELANEY, WHO SAID FOXTEL IS CLEARLY THE BIGGEST SINGLE CONTRIBUTOR TO 3D CONTENT IN AUSTRALIA.

"If you look at all of the places you can actually use your 3D TV, you've got to have Foxtel because by far and away, by many multiples, we've got more content than anyone else," said Delaney.

This declaration came soon after Foxtel had broadcast the Sony Open golf tournament and the Winter X Games in 3D, and announced that it would show Australia's first movie and documentary on television in 3D. All in all, Delaney said Foxtel had invested a considerable sum in 3D broadcasting.

"It's in the millions [of dollars] because the commitment to keep the channel up there alone is quite substantial, then there's the technology that goes with the set tops and the cost of getting the signals here and then all of the staff," he said.

Not everyone agrees with Delaney, however, with Sony technology communications manager Paul Colley reminding consumers that there is a swathe of 3D movies being made and subsequently released on Blu-ray and that more content is due down the pipeline. Furthermore, Colley said the facility exists for manufacturers to push 3D content to a connected Smart TV, though this has not yet been practiced in Australia.

Up to now, the free to air broadcasters have shown the rugby league State of Origin, both the AFL and NRL Grand Finals and parts of the World Cup in 3D.

Why the world needs Conran Audio docks

CANOHM, THE MELBOURNE BASED DISTRIBUTORS BEST KNOWN FOR ITS TV AND AV MOUNTING SYSTEMS, IS NOW DISTRIBUTING THE CONRAN BRAND OF IDOCKS.

This English brand is named for British designing knight Sir Terence Conran, a contemporary renaissance man who is also dabbles in restaurants, literature and architecture.

During the launch, Canohm general manager of sales, Robert Costello, actually pondered aloud whether the world needs another iPod dock. He argues that we do, as this product is a response to the evolution that Apple's iRange has undergone since the launch of the first Classic in 2001.

In addition to having Bluetooth playback, the new Conran dock also features six preset equalisers (kitchen, lounge, study, bedroom, open plan and normal), USB connectivity and auxiliary input. There are two colours available at launch: black and white. The RRP is \$549.



Conran's new iPod dock is also available in black.

Panasonic refreshes its camcorder lineup

PANASONIC HAS UNVEILED EIGHT NEW CAMCORDERS AND ONE NEW 3D LENS ACCESSORY.

At the top of the range is the hard disk/SD card hybrid HS900 (RRP \$2,099). This Full HD model features 3MOS recording, 3.5-inch LCD touchscreen, optical image stabiliser and 5.1 channel surround sound. With similar features but with only SD card recording is the SD900 (RRP \$1,499).

Both these camcorders are compatible with Panasonic's new 3D lens, the CLT1 (RRP \$449). This lens allows users to create their own 3D content, with playback through a 3D TV. In the case of Panasonic, users can take the SD card out of the camcorder and put it straight into a Viera TV to watch footage.

Also new to the range are four models in Panasonic broad mid-level category. There's only one hybrid model, the HS80 (RRP \$949), and three SD card only models (ranging from RRP \$499 up to \$849). These models are all Full HD 1MOS camcorders.

At the entry level, Panasonic has two new super-

zoom SD camcorders, both with 78x zoom capabilities. There's the hybrid H101 (RRP \$549) and the SD card only S71 (RRP \$349).

This is Panasonic's second generation consumer 3D lens, the CLT1.

The new Panasonic HS-900 has both hard disk and SD card memory.



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