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Imperx Adds Gamma Correction to Video Capture ExpressCard

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Imperx, Inc., a leading provider of state-of-the-art digital cameras and frame grabbers, has enhanced its professional vision system video capture capability for ExpressCard/54 laptop computers. The company's HD-SDI Express video capture card, a highly versatile frame grabber, can now be configured to compensate for display non-linearity through gamma correction as well as to implement arbitrary

transformations for knee correction, contrast enhancement, and the like. The card is capable of acquiring images from any standard definition (SD) or high definition (HD) SDI video source and sending them to an ExpressCard/54-compliant notebook computer at more than 235 Mbytes/sec for real-time viewing and storage.



Imperx's enhancement of its HD-SDI Express card leverages the company's expertise developing PCMCIA frame grabbers. "Laptop-based systems can use the same level of functionality and performance required in other demanding vision systems," said Imperx president Petko Dinev. "These enhancements to the HD-SDI Express video capture card represent another increase in versatility in our laptop solution."

Software Automates Transformations

The HD-SDI Express card can accept an analog SMPTE 292M serial as well as SD and HD SDI video formats for 720p, 1080i, and 1080p resolution. It saves images in 20-bit YCrCb 4:2:2 or 24-bit RGB formats, can capture single or multiple frames at full resolution, and can generate standard AVI clips. Data output options include raw data as well as files in BMP, TIFF, or adjustable JPEG file formats. The card also incorporates several advanced features, including lookup tables, histogramming, and hex pixel dumps.

Configuration software that comes with the card allows users to make system adjustments such as window size, brightness, and RGB gain along with offset and automatic white balancing. This software also allows users to control the lookup table entries that can map each pixel's R, G, and B components to new values. The most recent software release allows users to create tables automatically by selecting a gamma correction parameter or using the "pencil" mode to create a custom arbitrary transform.

In the "pencil" mode users can use the mouse to directly draw the desired transfer function for each color table. By selecting the gamma correction option, users have the choice of entering an explicit gamma value, using up/down arrows to adjust the value, or using a slider. Once the gamma value "G" is set, the software automatically creates lookup tables using the function $OUTPUT = 255 * [(INPUT/255)^G]$.

This enhanced software thus gives users full control over image data remapping for a variety of image enhancement functions.

Price and Availability

The HD-SDI Express video capture card with gamma correction enhancement is now shipping. Ordering information can be obtained by contacting sales@imperx.com.

About Imperx, Inc.

Imperx, Inc. designs, develops and manufactures advanced imaging products used in the machine vision, medical, defense, surveillance and astronomy markets, and wherever there is a need to capture high-resolution digital color or black/white images for both still and full-rate motion processing. Headquartered in Boca Raton, FL, with distributors nationwide, Imperx has manufacturing facilities that are certified for ISO 9002 compliance. For more information, visit the Imperx, Inc. website at www.imperx.com.

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