EIZO Unveils LCD Monitor for Graphic-Based Applications
Proprietary ASIC provides FlexScan® L685EX with gamma correction,
color space emulation, and independent 6-color control

Matto, Japan, April 30, 2002 – Eizo Nanao Corporation today announced the release of the FlexScan L685EX – a product specifically intended for use in graphics intensive environments such as design studios, printing houses and MRI rooms in hospitals. Previously, professionals in these fields preferred the color rendition capabilities offered by CRT monitors despite their obvious drawbacks such as considerable space and power requirements. However, with the FlexScan L685EX, EIZO is introducing a flat panel monitor that offers true color fidelity and unrivalled image control. Advanced features include gamma correction, color space emulation, independent 6-color control and several others that make achieving the desired image easier than ever, all in one of the most compact packages on the market with EIZO's SlimEdge thin bezel design.

"Although LCD monitors have gone from being an expensive luxury for the few to the product of choice in dealing rooms and corporate offices in a short amount of time, graphics intensive work has remained the domain of the CRT monitor, in part due to superior color rendering," said Kunihiro Arata, General Manager of Eizo Nanao Corporation's Sales & Marketing Division. "By offering levels of image and color control not available even with CRT monitors, the FlexScan L685EX should accelerate the migration to LCD technology among professionals in both creative and medical fields."

With a dual domain in-plane switching (IPS) panel, the FlexScan L685EX has some of the most advanced specifications in its class. Viewing angles are 170° both horizontally and vertically to minimize color shift from edge to edge. Brightness is 250 cd/m², contrast ratio 400:1, pixel pitch 0.2805 mm, and the native resolution 1280 × 1024.

EIZO-Developed ASIC
To guarantee maximum image quality and give users full control over screen parameters, EIZO developed its own ASIC (application specific integrated circuit) for the L685EX which includes the following three advantages.
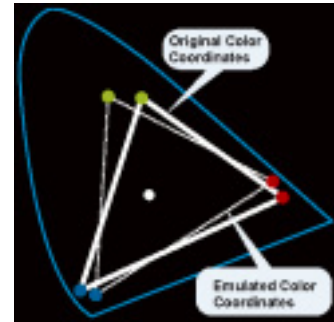
Gamma Correction
This valuable feature assures the FlexScan L685EX produces smoother gradations of color than was possible before. It accomplishes this by automatically converting 8-bit data (256 gradations) received from the computer to 10-bit (1021 gradations) and then reassigning this data back to 8-bits with the ideal gamma values. For color-rich images, this means that even subtle mid-tones are displayed correctly. Furthermore, using the ScreenManager® OSD menu or the bundled ScreenManager Pro for LCD[1] software allows for manual adjustments of gamma from 1.4 to 3.0 in increments of 0.2.
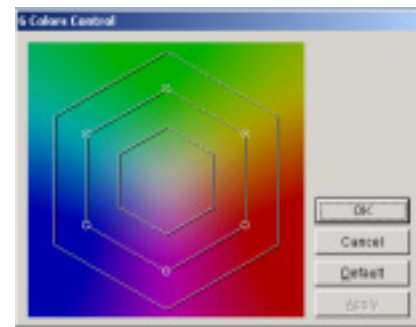
Emulation of Color Characteristics

This innovative feature is part of the ScreenManager Pro for LCD software and allows the FlexScan L685EX to emulate the color characteristics of CRT or other LCD monitors by inputting their coordinates for white, red, green, and blue. This is especially important for color matching when using the FlexScan L685EX with other monitors in a multi-panel environment. In addition, it can also emulate color spaces such as NTSC, HDTV, and sRGB, which is the default color space for the Web.

Independent 6-Color Control

Hue and saturation can be controlled individually for each primary color (red, green, blue) and each secondary color (cyan, yellow, and magenta). Since adjustment for each color is done individually, changes to one color will have no effect on the others.

Fine Contrast

A staple of EIZO's CRT monitors, this unique front-button controlled feature has been expanded and is now available for the first time on an LCD monitor. Fine Contrast gives the user a choice of six modes, Text, Picture, Movie, Custom, sRGB, and External to optimize the display for almost any application. Each mode has default settings for image parameters such as brightness, color temperature, gamma, and saturation, which can be further adjusted and saved in the OSD menu.

A seventh mode, WindowMovie Mode, is accessible through the ScreenManager Pro for LCD software. WindowMovie displays a video player software application at the monitor's maximum brightness setting while permitting independent brightness adjustment of the rest of the screen. This allows the user to watch a DVD while working on another program such as an e-mail application at a dimmer setting more comfortable for reading text.

Auto Fine Contrast

With ScreenManager Pro for USB the user can assign any of the seven Fine Contrast modes to a software application. When that application is activated, the screen automatically changes to the previously selected mode. For example, if a graphics software program has been assigned Picture mode and an e-mail program Text mode, and both are open on the desktop, activating the graphics software program causes the screen to automatically shift to Picture mode. Likewise, choosing the e-mail program prompts a return to Text mode. This eliminates the need to toggle among the modes with the front button.

DVI-I and USB Ports

To assure the FlexScan L685EX displays the highest quality images possible, two DVI-I ports

are provided for a pure digital connection with computers equipped with a digital graphics card. DVI-I technology also accepts analog input from legacy computer systems. One upstream and four downstream USB ports offer trouble-free installation of USB compliant peripheral devices

ScreenManager Pro for LCD
With this proprietary utility software, all OSD functions can be comfortably handled with the mouse or keyboard rather than the front buttons. Additional color and image control features such as color characteristic emulation and Auto Fine Contrast are also operated with this software.

Greater Space-Savings with EIZO's SlimEdge Design
EIZO's innovative SlimEdge design features a thin bezel around all four sides of the panel for a total width and height of just 399 mm and 328 mm respectively, even with the built-in power supply unit. Not only does it occupy substantially less desktop space than CRT monitors, but is also more compact than most other LCD monitors in the 18-inch category.

Ergonomic Design
The FlexScan L685EX provides maximum ergonomic comfort. Tilt and swivel angles are 40° and 70° respectively, and the stand has a vertical adjustment range of 100 mm. The monitor easily pivots 90° for viewing in portrait mode[2]. With its internal power supply unit and compatibility with VESA standards, the panel is ideal for wall or arm mounting.

Optional Accessories — *i*·Sound™ L2, FW-03, and Screen Administrator
EIZO has prepared several accessories that ensure greater functionality of the L685EX

- *i*·Sound L2 – This sound unit offers dual speakers at 2 watts each, and attaches directly to the bottom of the panel so not to increase the overall footprint.
- FW-03 – To protect against dust and scratches, this protection sheet fits right over the screen surface and leaves minimal trace of implementation.
- Screen Administrator – In a network environment, this EIZO developed software allows system administrators to perform important setup and management tasks on Windows-based client PCs and select EIZO monitors[3] from a control PC. Some of these tasks include confirmation of connection and asset management for each client, and sending messages to appear on-screen. Screen Administrator also prevents monitor theft by disabling any monitor improperly removed from the network.

Compliance with Regulatory Standards
The FlexScan L685EX meets some of the strictest standards on the market including TCO'99[4], TÜV Rheinland/Ergonomics, and the EPA ENERGY STAR® Program.

Availability
The FlexScan L685EX will go on sale worldwide in late May of 2002. Both the FlexScan L685EX and *i*·Sound L2 are available in a choice of gray or black.

About EIZO

Eizo Nanao Corporation, the specialist in the development and production of state-of-the-art display systems, is based in Japan and represented in over thirty countries by a network of exclusive distributors.

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[1]ScreenManager Pro for LCD can only be used with the Microsoft® Windows® 98SE, ME, 2000, and XP operating systems. When using this software, the L685EX must be connected to the PC with the bundled USB cable.

[2]Pivot® Software from Portrait® Displays, Inc. is necessary for viewing in portrait mode.

[3]Currently, Screen Administrator is for use with the EIZO FlexScan L685EX, L685, and L375 only. It cannot be used with the monitors of any other manufacturer.

[4]Gray cabinet only.

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