

NEW VAIO FE Series Offers Supreme Home Entertainment to Notebook PC Users

Hong Kong, February 16, 2006 – Sony Corporation of Hong Kong Limited is sending a welcome message to Notebook PC users with the launch of its latest VAIO 2006 Series. Among the highlights of the Series is the new VAIO FE, which sets the standard for the Home Notebook PC segment.

The new VAIO VGN-FE18GP incorporates advanced Intel® Centrino® Duo Mobile Technology that is the latest in Intel technology, and is telling Notebook PC users that even high-power users no longer need to be chained to their desks. With its DDR2 memory and super fast serial ATA Hard Drive, the VAIO FE has enough muscle to power even the most demanding tasks at top speed. The result is ultimate performance for a wide array of productivity and entertainment activities including resource-intensive programs, even while maintaining communications or sharing pictures, movies or music.

Innovative 15.4" Clear Bright High Colour LCD

Featuring the newly developed 15.4" Clear Bright High Colour LCD with WXGA (1280 x 800) resolution of an embracing design that aligns two internal fluorescent tubes vertically instead of side by side, the VAIO FE delivers exquisite 72% of colour reproduction, making it the ultimate high-performance mobile media centre. The VAIO FE Series LCD ensures rich and vibrant multimedia playback and delivers the same intense colour reproduction as a standard LCD TV, which is perfect for watching DVDs or 3D graphics.

Visual and Voice Communications

The VAIO FE Series also offers superb quality sound with Sony's trademark Sound Reality audio chip for advanced audio integration and beautiful rich sound that is the ideal complement to its amazing video capabilities. The new VAIO FE also features impressive credentials for voice and video communications. With the FE's built-in camera, microphone and Bluetooth® expanding communication options, users need only select their favourite Voice over Internet Protocol to keep in touch with family, friends and colleagues anywhere, anytime. The new VAIO Camera Utility application software activates automatically when the user launches their choice of communications related applications, allowing simple, intuitive control over various visual factors which add further convenience to visual communications.

The FE Series also offers ultimate DVD creation power with Click to DVD Software and an onboard DVD+R Double Layer/DVD±RW drive that makes producing professional looking DVD movies on the VAIO FE quick and easy. It can create or record up to 8.5GB of home video movies, music or digital photos or up to four hours of MPEG-2 video on one DVD+R Double Layer DVD disc.

The VAIO FE includes ExpressCard™, the emerging standard in smaller, faster PC card solutions with the throughput to port data at incredible speeds, making it perfect for transfers of video and large files. The S-video capability enables convenient connectivity to televisions, cameras and projectors.

A new optional Docking Station allows users to enjoy the flexibility to swap in and out the wide range of peripherals they need. The Docking Station offers four USB2.0 ports, a VGA display out (D-Sub 15 pin) port, a Gigabit Ethernet port, and Audio Output and an S-Video Out connector.

The VAIO FE is the best solution for users who want a Notebook PC with state-of-the-art technology and the power to manage a complete and comprehensive multimedia entertainment centre, all with sheer Sony style that can make it the centerpiece of any room. This simple but fashionable series makes the perfect addition to any home with its bright sophistication.

The new VAIO FE Series marks Sony's continued commitment to delivering the most advanced and best-engineered solutions for today's mobile users.

Order Now

Preordering for the VGN-FE18GP runs from February 16, 2006 to February 21, 2006 on Sony Style Web site (www.sonymstyle.com.hk), Sony 24-hour tele-sales hotline at 2345-2966, Sony Style Hong Kong, Sony Shops or authorized dealers, at suggested retail price of HK\$15,980. Customers who order the VGN-FE18GP can get a VAIO cushion sheet and buy the VAIO mouse VGP-UMS50 at HK\$100 (worth HK\$348).

no more bounds

VAIO has focused on offering new ways of enjoying the PC ever since its introduction. With its successful establishment as a brand in the fields of computing and personal entertainment, VAIO has entered a new phase of dynamic transformation. By removing the boundaries between traditional AV and IT products and revealing new possibilities while simplifying the way technology is used, VAIO provides the full benefits of true AV/IT convergence: further enjoyment of entertainment content anywhere, anytime.

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Key specifications of the VGN-FE18GP are as below:

Model	VGN-FE18GP
Platform/ Microprocessor	Intel® Centrino® Duo Mobile Technology • Intel® Core™ Duo Processor T2400 (1.83 GHz)*1

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intel® PRO/Wireless 3945ABG Network Connection
Chipset	Intel® 945PM Express Chipset
Operating System	Microsoft® Windows® XP Professional with Service Pack 2 (English version) Multilanguage User Interface (pre-installed Traditional Chinese)
Processor System Bus	667MHz
Memory Bus	533MHz
Cache Memory	L1 Cache: 64KB L2 Cache: 2MB (on CPU)
Main Memory	512MB DDR2 SDRAM (upgradeable up to 2GB)* ² (partially shared with video memory)* ³ 2 SO-DIMM slots (The pre-installed memory module uses one)
Hard Disk	100GB (C: 20GB, D: 80GB* ⁴) Serial ATA, 5400rpm
Optical Drive	DVD±RW Drive (supporting DVD+R Double Layer disc)* ⁵ Maximum reading speed: DVD-ROM, DVD+R, DVD-R, DVD+RW, DVD-RW: 8x DVD+R DL (Double Layer): 6x CD-R, CD-RW, CD-ROM: 24x Maximum writing speed: DVD+R, DVD-R, DVD+RW: 8x DVD-RW: 6x DVD+R DL (Double Layer): 4x CD-R, CD-RW: 24x
Graphics Accelerator	Dual display compatible • 3D graphics acceleration compatible • NVIDIA® GeForce® Go 7400 with NVIDIA® TurboCache™* ³ (PCI Express x16 connection)
Video Memory	256MB* ³
Display	15.4" Wide (WXGA: 1280 x 800) TFT colour display (Clear Bright High Colour LCD: Dual Lamp, Wide View)
Interfaces	USB 2.0 x 3* ⁶ • i.LINK (IEEE 1394) S400 (4pin) • S-Video Out connector • ExpressCard™/34 slot • Network (RJ-45) connector (100BASE-TX/10BASE-T) • Headphone jack (stereo mini) • Microphone jack (stereo mini) • Monitor connector (VGA, D-SUB 15 pin) • Modular (RJ-11) connector • Docking Station connector • Memory Stick Duo Slot* ⁷ (MagicGate compatible, Memory Stick PRO Duo compatible, High-speed data transfer compatible)
Wireless LAN	Integrated Wireless LAN IEEE 802.11a/802.11b/802.11g* ⁸ • Intel® PRO/Wireless 3945ABG Network Connection • Data rate: maximum 11Mbps (802.11b)/54 Mbps (802.11a/g)* ⁹ • Frequency: 5GHz (802.11a), 2.4GHz (802.11b/g)
Bluetooth®	Bluetooth® standard version 2.0+EDR* ⁹ • Output: maximum +6dBm • Frequency: 2.4GHz

Modem	V. 92 and V. 90 Compliant
PC Card (PCMCIA) Slot	Type I/II x 1, CardBus Support
Camera	310,000 pixels effective Image Device: OmniVision 1/5", VGA CMOS Lens: 2 elements in 2 groups, F2.8(Fixed) Focus distance: f=3.0 mm *Built-in monaural microphone (front side)
Audio	DSD compatible high quality sound chip: "Sound Reality"(Intel® High Definition Audio compatible) · 3D audio (Direct Sound 3D support) · Built-in stereo speakers
Keyboard/Input Device	ca 19mm Key pitch / 2.5mm Key stroke · 86 Keys · Intelligent Touchpad
Battery	VGP-BPS2B*10 Lithium-ion battery: up to 3 hours of use*11
Dimensions (W x H x D)	366 × 26-35.3 × 274.5mm
Weight	2.8kg (including the supplied battery)
Included Software	Adobe Reader 7 · Adobe Photoshop Elements 4.0 (Installer) · Adobe Premiere Standard · Click to DVD 2.5 · DSD Direct 1.0 · DVgate Plus 2.2 · Image Converter 2 Plus · Norton Internet Security 2006 · Roxio DigitalMedia SE 7 · PictureGear Studio 2.0 · SonicStage 3.3 · SonicStage Mastering Studio 2.1 · SonicStage Mastering Studio Audio Filter 2.0 · VAIO Camera Utility 1.0 · VAIO CameraVJ Screen Saver · VAIO Control Center 1.1 · VAIO Edit Components 5.0 · VAIO Media 5.0 · VAIO Original Screen Saver · VAIO Recovery Utility 2.6 · VAIO Update 2.1 · VAIO Zone 1.4 · WinDVD 5 for VAIO
Supplied Accessories	AC adapter (VGP-AC19V12) · Lithium-ion battery (VGP-BPS2B) · Memory Card Adapter (VGP-MCA20)*7*12
Local Warranty	One year

Features and specifications are subject to change without notice.

*1 CPU speed will be reduced under certain operating conditions.

*2 By removing the pre-installed 512MB memory module and adding two 1GB memory modules.

*3 NVIDIA® TurboCache™ technology combines the size and bandwidth of video memory and dynamically available system memory for optimal system performance.

*4 Includes necessary data for recovery (setting back to initial shipment settings) in the hard disk drive consuming approximately 5GB in size.

*5 This product is designed to playback discs that conform to the Compact Disc Digital Audio standard specifications (CD Standard). A DualDisc is a two sided disc product which mates DVD recorded material on one side with digital audio material on the other side. Please be aware that the audio side (non-DVD side) of a DualDisc may not play on this product because it does not conform to the CD Standard.

- *6 High-speed/Full-speed/Low speed compatible.
 - *7 Compatibility confirmed with Sony branded "Memory Stick" media only.
 - *8 The maximum communication distance can vary depending on the obstacles or the distance between the communication devices, the radio waves, the operating system or the software being used.
 - *9 The communication speed varies depending on the distance between communication devices, existence of obstacles between such devices, the device configuration, the radio conditions, and the software in use. In addition, communication may be cut off depending on the radio conditions.
 - *10 This product may only function with a genuine Sony battery designed for this model.
 - *11 Estimated battery life (under JEITA Battery Run Time Measurement Method (ver.1.0).) When the power-saving mode is on. Actual battery life may vary with different operating conditions and settings. Optional battery VGP-BPL2C offers up to 5.5 hours of use.
 - *12 The copyright protection and high-speed data transfer features of the SD memory card are not supported. As for the Memory Stick PRO media, only Sony branded media is recommended to use with the adapter.
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