

Sony Launches New VAIO SZ Series
The Ultimate Notebook PC Packs Mobility, Security and Communications Functionality
in a Compact, Lightweight Package

Hong Kong, February 16, 2006 – Sony Corporation of Hong Kong Limited today launched its 2006 Series of VAIO notebook computers in Hong Kong. The new series represents Sony’s latest innovative notebook solutions for the busy mobile lifestyles of today’s business and personal users. Among the highlight products is the VAIO SZ Series.

Equipped with sizzling new features, the VAIO SZ Series pushes the envelope in VAIO’s mobile flagship line with the incorporation of Intel®’s latest architecture for outstanding processing power. With its advanced Intel® technology, perfect size for both power and mobility and signature Sony style, the new SZ Series proves VAIO’s extraordinary commitment to mobile users. The power and style of the new VAIO SZ Series is reinforcing VAIO’s leadership position in the 13.3” notebook market segment in Hong Kong.

Leading edge platform in perfect size

The VAIO SZ Series features three models, including the VGN-SZ18GP/C, VGN-SZ15GP/B and VGN-SZ13GP/B*1. The VAIO SZ Series offers optimum mobile capability to support the on-the-go lifestyles of the professional class with new touches that help them make more out of life, whether at work or at play. The SZ Series reinvents Sony’s leading edge platform with cool style and the perfect size for portability and power, of which there’s plenty with the incorporation of Intel®’s latest architecture, Intel® Centrino® Duo Mobile Technology (the VGN-SZ18GP/C and VGN-SZ15GP/B) for smoother and more efficient operation.

Ultimate graphics performance and stamina

VAIO’s enduring commitment to offer both outstanding graphics and ultimate stamina can be seen in the VAIO SZ Series’ Hybrid Graphics System that gives users the ability to balance their usage needs for great graphics performance and maximum battery life on-the-go. VAIO SZ Series users can instantly switch*2 from “STAMINA MODE” to preserve battery life when traveling or to “SPEED MODE” to enjoy the highest quality graphics when working in the office or relaxing with a DVD at home. In the SZ Premium, the VGN-SZ18GP/C, the freedom of VAIO’s Hybrid Graphics System along with the incorporation of White LED helps reduction of power consumption where incredible stamina is achieved with up to seven hours (at STAMINA MODE)*3 of mobile usage per day.

Essential security for mobile users

In addition to its high processing power and portable size, business users will particularly appreciate

the enhanced security protocols of the new VAIO SZ Premium VGN-SZ18GP/C. Newly added security measures include Fingerprint recognition technology, HDD protection and a TPM security chip for additional data protection. With these additional security measures, VAIO SZ Premium users have the freedom to indulge their mobile lifestyle anywhere and can rest easy in the knowledge that their work is protected.

Visual and Voice Communication

New visual and voice communications features in the SZ Series include a built-in camera, microphone and Bluetooth® that make communications easy for business users to keep in touch with business partners or with family while traveling. 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.

Cool and Solid Design

With its high speed processing power, stringent security and enhanced communications capability, the SZ series offers the ultimate solution for true mobile executives, while still satisfying their discerning demand for stylish design. The SZ Premium VGN-SZ18GP/C features advanced Sony design traits like the use of carbon fibre material in the display cabinet, which is also used in airplanes and racing cars for ultimate durability at a light weight; while the SZ VGN-SZ15GP/B and VGN-SZ13GP/B are housed in a magnesium body casing with HDD protection. The ultra slim display is enhanced by a high quality aluminium hairline-finished palm rest and a rounded “r-shape” front edge that adds stability and a sense of luxury with premium style.

The graceful and slim style of the SZ Series feature Carbon Black in the VGN-SZ18GP and a two tone colour of Coral Black and Light Silver in the VGN-SZ15GP/B and VGN-SZ13GP/B that adds another element of sensational style, making the SZ the perfect centerpiece for any home or office environment.

The power and functionality of the new VAIO SZ series makes it the ultimate 3-in-1 Notebook PC in 2006, while its sublime Sony style definitely earns it a place amongst the coolest Notebook PCs in the market.

*¹ The VGN-SZ18GP/C and VGN-SZ13GP/B target consumers while the VGN-SZ15GP/B targets commercial users.

*² Rebooting of the computer is necessary to complete the switching.

*³ Estimated battery life (under JEITA Battery Run Time Measurement Method (ver.1.0).) Actual battery life may vary with different operating conditions and settings. Estimated battery life at “SPEED MODE” will be approximately 1.5 hours shorter for VGP-BPS2C.

Order Now

The suggested retail price of the VGN-SZ18GP/C and VGN-SZ13GP/B are HK\$16,980 and HK\$11,980 respectively. Customers who place orders on Sony Style Web site (www.sonystyle.com.hk), Sony 24-hour tele-sales hotline at 2345-2966, Sony Style Hong Kong or Sony Shops from February 21, 2006 to March 7, 2006, can get a free

VAIO Carrying Bag, a free USB Massager and 2000 Asia Miles, and they can also purchase the VAIO Bluetooth® mouse VGP-BMS-30 at a special offer of HK\$200 (original price: HK\$548).

The VGN-SZ15GP/B will be available on Sony Style Web site (www.sonystyle.com.hk), Sony 24-hour tele-sales hotline at 2345-2966, Sony Style Hong Kong, Sony Shops and authorized dealers of business products from March 9, 2006 at a suggested price of HK\$15,980.

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-SZ18GP/C, VGN-SZ15GP/B and VGN-SZ13GP/B are as below:

Model	VGN-SZ18GP/C	VGN-SZ15GP/B	VGN-SZ13GP/B
Platform/ Microprocessor	Intel® Centrino® Duo Mobile Technology		Intel® Centrino® Mobile Technology
	Intel® Core™ Duo Processor T2400 (1.83GHz)*1	Intel® Core™ Duo Processor T2300 (1.66GHz)*1	Intel® Core™ Solo Processor T1300 (1.66GHz)*1

	Intel® PRO/Wireless 3945ABG Network Connection	
Chipset	Intel® 945GM Express Chipset	
Operating System	Microsoft® Windows® XP Professional with Service Pack 2 (English version) Multilanguage User Interface (pre-installed Traditional Chinese)	
Processor	667MHz	
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	80GB (C: 20GB, D: 60GB * ⁴) Serial ATA, 5400rpm	60GB (C: 20GB, D: 40GB * ⁴) Serial ATA, 5400rpm
Optical Drive	DVD±RW Drive (supporting DVD+R Double Layer disc) *⁵ Maximum reading speed: DVD+R, DVD-R, DVD+RW, DVD-RW, DVD+R DL (Double Layer): 4x DVD-ROM: 8x CD-RW: 12x CD-R, CD-ROM: 24x Maximum writing speed: DVD+R, DVD-R: 4x DVD+RW, DVD+R DL (Double Layer): 2.4x DVD-RW: 2x CD-R: 24x CD-RW: 10x	
Graphics Accelerator	Dual display compatible • 3D graphics acceleration compatible • NVIDIA® GeForce® Go 7400 with NVIDIA® TurboCache™ * ³ (PCI Express x16 connection)	
Video Memory	128MB* ³	
Display	13.3" Wide (WXGA: 1280 x 800) TFT colour display (Clear Bright LCD: White LED, Wide View)	13.3" Wide (WXGA: 1280 x 800) TFT colour display (Clear Bright LCD: Single Lamp, Wide View)
Interfaces	USB 2.0 x 2* ⁶ • i.LINK (IEEE 1394) S400 (4pin) • ExpressCard™/34 slot • Network (RJ-45) connector (100BASE-TX/10BASE-T) • Headphone jack (stereomini) • Microphone jack (stereomini) • 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)	
Security Chip	TCG Ver1.2 compliant Trusted Platform Module (TPM)	-
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: 1/8", VGA CMOS, Lens: 2 elements in 2 groups, F4 (Fixed), Focus distance: f=1.74 mm *Built-in monaural microphone aside	
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 / 3mm Key stroke · 86Keys · Intelligent Touchpad		
Battery	VGP-BPS2C*10 Lithium-ion battery: up to 7 hours of use (at STAMINA MODE) *11	VGP-BPS2C*10 Lithium-ion battery: up to 6 hours of use (at STAMINA MODE) *11	VGP-BPS2C*10 Lithium-ion battery: up to 6.5 hours of use (at STAMINA MODE) *11
Dimensions (W x H x D)	315 × 21.8 – 32.6 × 234.3mm		315 × 24.7 – 36.0 × 234.3mm
Weight	1.69kg (including the supplied battery)		1.85kg (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 · Imager Converter 2 Plus · Infineon TPM Professional Package 2.5 (Installer) · Norton Internet Security 2006 · Roxio DigitalMedia SE 7 · PictureGear Studio 2.0 · Protector Suite QL 5.2 · 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 HDD Protection 1.0 · 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	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 · Imager 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 HDD Protection 1.0 · 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-BPS2C) · 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. Estimated battery life at “SPEED MODE” will be approximately 1.5 hours shorter for VGP-BPS2C and approximately 2 hours shorter for VGP-BPL2C. Optional battery VGP-BPL2C offers up to 10.5 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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