

Sony Ushers in a Revolution in High Definition Entertainment with VAIO AR-Series
World's first Blu-ray Notebook Computer offers the ultimate in High-Definition

Hong Kong, June 20, 2006 – Sony Corporation of Hong Kong Limited today unveiled the world's first Blu-ray Disc-enabled notebook computer, the VAIO VGN-AR18GP. The new VGN-AR18GP is ushering in a revolution in portable home AV entertainment with amazing, high definition recording and playback capabilities and the world's highest resolution in a personal computer.

Boasting an extra-large widescreen display with Sony's Clear Bright High-Color™ LCD technology and state-of-the-art graphics capability, the VGN-AR18GP offers the ultimate solution for avid gamers and home entertainment enthusiasts. With its' extraordinary video and sound quality, enhanced communications and software applications, the VGN-AR18GP is the ideal desktop replacement for both entertainment and business users.

The VGN-AR18GP combines a 17-inch WUXGA widescreen display with the high definition power of its Blu-ray Disc Drive, full HD LCD and ultimate Sony design. The VGN-AR18GP is the world's first computer to feature a Blu-ray Disc Drive supporting BD-R, BD-RE, BD-ROM, DVD±R DL, DVD±RW and DVD-RAM. The VGN-AR18GP plays back new Blu-ray Disc high-definition content, allowing users to enjoy movies in full 1080 HD resolution.

In addition to its HD playback capability, the VGN-AR18GP offers unprecedented multimedia power with the ability to record high-definition camcorder content to Blu-ray Discs, letting aspiring moviemakers shoot, edit and burn their unique creations in HD. Using the extensive software applications packaged within the VGN-AR18GP users can edit and share high-definition footage on Sony high-capacity BD-R and BD-RE Blu-ray Discs (The dual-layer Blu-ray disc media available in the 2nd half of this year will offer up to 50GB storage capacity) or on traditional DVD formats, capitalizing on its flexible storage, playback and recording capabilities.

For users who want to view their content on an even larger screen than the AR's extra-large 17-inch WUXGA widescreen, the VGN-AR18GP comes equipped with an HDMI connector and S-cable that connects to high-definition televisions like the Sony's BRAVIA LCD TV or projector for a larger viewing experience.

The NVIDIA® GeForce® Go 7600 GT graphics card with 256MB dedicated video memory is ideal for handling high definition content and DVD playback; nothing brings gamers closer to the action! With a massive 160GB Hard Disk Drive and powered by the Intel® Centrino® Duo Mobile Technology comprising an Intel Core Duo Processor

T2600 (2.16GHz), the VGN-AR18GP offers the ultimate AV entertainment solution for portable entertainment anywhere, anytime.

Other unique design features in the VGN-AR18GP include a built-in MOTION EYE camera (310k pixels) seamlessly included at the top of the LCD. With the built-in microphone included along the front line of the keyboard, video conferencing with business colleagues or friends and family on the VGN-AR18GP is easier than ever. Powerful speakers have also been included on the front of the computer beneath the LCD screen for better audio.

The VGN-AR18GP is also distinguished by new improvements to its famed VAIO design, with an even sleeker appearance thanks to the glossy premium piano black finish used on the top and bottom of the notebook. The stylish black magnesium is perfectly accented by metal-plated trimming on both sides. This advanced finish is as durable as it is distinctive. Even the smallest detail has been paid meticulous attention to, as even the palm rest has been specially textured to prevent distracting reflections while watching video content.

Additional design touches include an illuminating VAIO Logo below the widescreen LCD. This intelligent logo automatically shuts off illumination when playing back movies so users can watch the movie without being disturbed. The VGN-AR18GP design features a slightly raised palm rest in relation to the keyboard with a natural curved slope for more relaxed and comfortable typing. Short-cut keys on the left hand side and AV buttons on the upper right hand side of the keyboard make navigating the VGN-AR18GP's wealth of AV entertainment features easy to navigate and simple to use.

The revolutionary new VGN-AR18GP is ideal for gamers and those who enjoy making and editing home videos and home movies with high definition quality. As with all Sony VAIO models, the new VGN-AR18GP appeals to stylish and tech-savvy consumers and for anyone looking for the best computer with top notch data and graphics processing power to replace their laptop or desktop.

Sony's First Blu-ray Disc Media

Sony's first single-layer 25GB Blu-ray Disc media offers an enormous storage capacity for customers with a large memory appetite for multiple purposes including the storage of video clips and music as well as data back-up. The Blu-ray Disc media offers a high 2x speed equivalent to a data transfer rate of 72 Mbps (9MB/second). Equivalent to 5 DVDs' storage memory capacities, it can store approximately 2 hours and 15 minutes of video at a bit rate of 24Mbps or 10 hours and 30 minutes at 5Mbps. Available in BD-R (write-once) and BD-RE (rewritable) formats, Sony's Blu-ray Disc media encompasses useful features for high-definition and large capacity recording. Users can easily play back the Blu-ray Disc media with the VGN-AR18GP.

Order Now

Preordering for the VGN-AR18GP runs from June 20, 2006 to June 26, 2006 on Sony Style Web site (www.sonystyle.com.hk), Sony 24-hour tele-sales hotline at 2345-2966, Sony Style Hong Kong, Sony Style Mong Kok, Sony Shops or selected authorized dealers. Customers who successfully place their orders in the above period can get a Blu-ray Disc-R BNR25A E and a Disc-RW BNE25A E at original price of \$155 and \$195 respectively for free. The VGN-AR18GB is available from end of June at the suggested retail price of HK\$32,980.

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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Interfaces	USB 2.0 x 3 ^{*7} · i.LINK (IEEE 1394) S400 (4pin) · S-Video Out connector ^{*8} · HDMI port ^{*9} · Universal ExpressCard™ slot (ExpressCard™/34, ExpressCard™/54 compatible) · 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 · Multi function bay docking station connector · SPDIF optical out · Memory Stick slot ^{*10} (Standard/Duo Size compatible, MagicGate compatible, Memory Stick PRO compatible, High-speed data transfer compatible) · SD Memory Card slot ^{*11} (MMC card compatible)
Wireless LAN	Integrated Wireless LAN IEEE 802.11a/802.11b/802.11g ^{*12} · Intel® PRO/Wireless 3945ABG Network Connection · Data rate: maximum 11Mbps (802.11b)/54Mbps (802.11a/g) ^{*13} · Frequency: 5GHz (802.11a), 2.4GHz (802.11b/g)
Bluetooth®	Bluetooth® standard version 2.0+EDR ^{*13} · 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, F4.0(Fixed) Focus distance: f = 2.6mm *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-BPS2C ^{*14} Lithium-ion battery: up to 2 hours of use ^{*15}
Dimensions (WxHxD)	416 × 33.5-41.5 × 299.5mm
Weight	3.8kg (including the supplied battery)
Included Software	Adobe Reader 7 · Adobe Photoshop Elements 4.0 (Installer) · Adobe Premiere Elements 2.0 · 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 3.4 · SonicStage Mastering Studio 2.2 · SonicStage Mastering Studio Audio Filter 2.0 · Ulead BD DiscRecorder for VAIO · VAIO Camera Utility 1.0 · VAIO CameraVJ Screen Saver · VAIO Control Center 1.1 · VAIO Edit Components 6.0 · 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 · WinDVD BD for VAIO
Supplied Accessories	AC adapter (VGP-AC19V16) ^{*16} · Lithium-ion battery (VGP-BPS2C)
Local Warranty	One year

Features and specifications are subject to change without notice.

- *1. CPU speed will be reduced under certain operating conditions.
- *2. Since memory modules of the same capacity are installed to both of the two memory module slots, this computer will run in dual channel mode and provide better performance.
- *3. By removing the pre-installed 512MB memory modules and adding two 1GB memory modules.
- *4. Necessary data for recovery (setting back to initial shipment settings) in the hard disk drive consuming approximately 7 GB in size available separately.
- *5. Set to RAID 0 (Striping) at initial shipment settings. It will be displayed as 160GB x 1 on the Windows operating system.
- *6. This product does not support BD-RE 1.0 discs and Blu-ray cartridge discs. This product is also 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.
- *7. High-speed/Full-speed/Low speed compatible.
- *8. Does not support playback copyright protected contents recorded on Blu-ray disc.
- *9. Based on High-Definition Multimedia Interface Specification Version 1.2a.
- *10. Compatibility confirmed with Sony branded "Memory Stick" media only.
- *11. Does not support SD card's copyright technology.
- *12. 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.
- *13. 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.
- *14. This product may only function with a genuine Sony battery designed for this model.
- *15. Estimated battery life (under JEITA Battery Run Time Measurement Method (ver. 1.0).) Actual battery life may vary with different operating conditions and settings. The optional battery VGP-BPL2C offers up to 3 hours of use.
- *16. AC adapter should be connected while the CPU is having a heavy workload, such as Blu-ray disc playback, or playback may not be displayed properly because of the power saving feature.

<<Important notice when playing back Blu-ray discs>>**[Supporting Disc]**

- Supports writing data to BD-R 1.1 discs (single-layer discs with the capacity of 25GB, dual-layer discs with the capacity of 50GB) and BD-RE 2.1 discs (single-layer discs with the capacity of 25GB, dual-layer discs with the capacity of 50GB). The Blu-ray drive on the user's computer does not support BDRE 1.0 discs and Blu-ray cartridge discs.

[Blu-ray Disc Playback]

- As with other optical media devices, circumstances may limit compatibility or prevent Blu-ray disc playback
- VAIO computers may not support movie playback on packaged media recorded in AVC or VC1 formats at high bit rates.
- Requires compatible high-definition display for high definition playback. Playback of AACS protected media may require an HDCP compliant output and HDCP compliant display.
- Users may need to connect to the Internet when playing copyright protected Blu-ray discs
- Region settings are required for Movies and BD-ROM contents. If the region setting does not match with the region of the disc, playback is not possible.

[Blu-ray Disc Recording / Burning]

- Video recording to Blu-ray Disc media is done in MPEG2 format only.

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