

What is the PCS-TL50 system?

The PCS-TL50 Series of Videoconferencing Systems are designed to meet business conferencing needs right on executive desktops. In the past, high quality videoconferencing systems required a specially-equipped room of their own — but no longer! Now Sony has combined powerful videoconferencing technology with our legendary display technology to deliver a sleek, all-in-one design appropriate for executive offices. You can use the high resolution widescreen 20" (viewable area measured diagonally) LCD monitor for your computer display — and make or receive video calls at the same time!

What functions can the PCS-TL50 perform?

The PCS-TL50 features three major functions in one sleek package. It is a 20" widescreen XGA computer monitor. It is a high-resolution entertainment display that can display outputs from content sources such as DVD players. And, even standing alone, it is a fully functional videoconferencing system.

Can I see my PC image while in a videoconference?

Yes! Unlike some competitive systems, the Sony PCS-TL50 allows you to view PC images, videoconferencing images, or even both at the same time. In this way, for example, you can look up some important information on your PC during a videoconference to answer a question.

What happens when I'm looking at my PC and a video call is received?

If you have your system set up to "auto answer," then the incoming call will appear in a small window on your screen, similar to the "picture in picture" feature on televisions. You can proceed with the call in that mode, or choose one of the other layout options, such as full screen videoconference, or "picture and picture" where the display simulates two side-by-side monitors, with your PC display on one side and the video call on the other. Of course, you can also set your system not to answer automatically — in that case, you will hear a ring tone but the system will not answer unless you press the "connect" button on the remote.

Can someone look at me without me knowing?

No. The system will always show at least a small video window when a call is active, so you will always know that a call is going on even if a call is automatically received while you are away from your desk.

That sounds like a good security feature. Are there other protections?

Yes. There are many security features built into the system. For example, there is a camera shutter that completely covers the lens, while simultaneously powering down the camera and disabling the microphones for complete privacy. In the settings menu, even when the system is set for auto-answer, you can specify that the microphone be turned off — so no one can listen to your office unless you allow it. For sensitive discussions, you can enable 128-bit AES encryption that will prevent anyone from intercepting the call, even on the public IP network. And, there are three levels of administrative password security. There are more, but you get the idea!

Can I share my computer data during a conference?

Yes, with the optional Data Solutions Box, or DSB. This box actually encodes the RGB output from your PC and sends it in a parallel channel that can be decoded at the far end by participants that also have DSBs. This decoded view is at the same high resolution (XGA) as your own screen, so all the detail is preserved, whether the content is a presentation, spreadsheet, or photos. Properly equipped far end participants can then see both the high-resolution presentation content and the live audio and video of the presenter. If participants do not have DSBs, they can still receive a scanned image of the content, but it will be of lower, "television-like" resolution.

Can I use the PCS-TL50 system in a conference room?

Yes, the system will work in a conference room, but the camera, microphones, and other aspects of the system are optimized for the short distances typical in desktop use. Because of this, the image captured in larger spaces might look distorted, and the camera mobility (pan, tilt, and zoom) will be limited. So, it will work "in a pinch", but for a permanent installation, one of the other Sony models such as the PCS-1 or PCS-11 might be a better choice.

Can the PCS-TL50 system participate in multipoint calls?

Yes, of course. Right out of the box, the basic PCS-TL50 can originate and receive point-to-point calls, and participate in multipoint calls. As we said, it is a fully functional videoconferencing system.

Can the PCS-TL50 system host multipoint calls?

Yes, the PCS-TL50 has the processing horsepower to host multipoint calls. You will need the optional IP MCU software, ISDN MCU software, or both, depending on your network connectivity and the type of systems you will be connecting with. This "internal MCU" function will support calls with up to 6 participants, which can meet the needs of many businesses without expensive external MCU hardware. And, by linking two systems together, you can host a conference with up to 10 participants! This system delivers power and flexibility that would have been impossible a few years ago.

What about network connectivity — do I need IP? ISDN?

Originally, telephone networks were used to carry almost all videoconferencing connections, and they usually used a type of digital phone line called ISDN. ISDN connections are still used, and offer the advantages of a fixed dialing number and relatively high privacy. On the downside, ISDN lines are quite expensive and have had reliability challenges. A newer option is to use a data network such as a LAN or WAN, or even the public Internet, to carry your videoconference. Data networks carry the conference using IP, or Internet Protocol, digital data packets. IP connections have dropped in price and improved in speed and reliability to the point where they are preferred for most new videoconferencing installations. In fact, many businesses (and even homes) already have a data connectivity service that they can use for conferencing, depending on what locations need to be connected.

The PCS-TL50 system can be used for either (or both) IP or ISDN network connectivity. Like all of Sony's current conferencing products, the PCS-TL50 is a "native speaker" of IP, so it can be connected directly to an IP network using a standard network connection. In this arrangement, it will determine

the best protocol and speed (up to 2 megabits per second) for the desired connection. If an ISDN connection is preferred, then you will need an ISDN adaptor which converts the native IP information to one or more ISDN connections. And, if you want to host multipoint conferences with both types of systems, then you will need both kinds of connections.

Can I make calls to other brands of equipment?

Yes! Sony is a strong supporter of open standards for visual communications, and participates in the ITU and other standards-setting bodies. All of our equipment is designed and tested to be compliant with approved video standards such as ITU-T H.263 and audio standards such as MPEG-4. In fact, Sony was one of the first manufacturers to implement the new H.264 video protocol, which delivers far improved picture quality at lower connection speeds.

As a result of Sony's commitment, and the commitment of other reputable equipment manufacturers, the Sony conferencing products work well when connecting to other brands and many older models of equipment. If you have specific compatibility questions, please contact Sony's Product Operational Support Center at: **800-883-6817** (Monday to Friday 8:30am to 8:00pm Eastern Time) or email us at: **bis.product.support@am.sony.com**.

Is it difficult to install or use?

No. Right out of the box, you only need to attach a power cord and a LAN connection to be able to start making calls within your network. If you have ISDN connections, or a more complicated network with firewalls and servers, then there are Sony authorized conferencing dealers that will be happy to help you choose and install the best system for your needs.

This sounds great. Where can I buy one?

Contact your local Authorized Sony Videoconferencing dealer, or visit **www.sony.com/conferencesolutions** to find a list of conferencing specialists.

