CIPA announces 'PictBridge' industry standard for direct printing from digital still cameras

TOKYO, February 3, 2003—Camera & Imaging Products Association (CIPA) announced today the establishment of PictBridge, an industry standard enabling a range of digital photo solutions, including the direct printing of photos from a digital still camera without the need to use a PC.

Originally proposed last December as "DPS" by Canon Inc., Fuji Photo Film Co., Ltd., HP, Olympus Optical Co., Ltd., Seiko Epson Corporation and Sony Corporation, the specification was then adopted by CIPA for formal standardization (CIPA DC-001-2003).

Until now, each company had its own proprietary solution for direct printing between digital still cameras and printers. This situation has proven to be limiting to consumers, as they are unable to achieve the same convenience and ease of use when using different product combinations and brands. The unified and open specification ensures compatibility across PictBridge-enabled digital cameras and printers, affording consumers the convenience of producing high-quality photos effortlessly using the controls of their camera. Moreover, the formal announcement of the specification as a CIPA standard is expected to further promote the broad adoption of PictBridge throughout the digital imaging industry.

Details on how to obtain the specification, logo certification guideline, and other PictBridge-related information can be found online at http://www.cipa.jp/pictbridge/

About PictBridge
PictBridge defines an application-layer interface that is transport independent, enabling its extensibility for implementation on future physical interfaces. The new specification is initially written for USB as a physical transport and Picture Transfer Protocol*[1] for data transfer. By connecting a PictBridge-enabled digital still camera to a PictBridge-enabled printer with a single cable, users can easily control the print settings using their camera and produce high-quality photos without using a PC.

PictBridge supports the following features:

- Print an image displayed on the digital still camera
- Print two or more images selected from the display on the digital still camera
- Automatically print images using the Digital Print Order Format*[2] specification
- Print an index of all images
- Print all images

Advanced features using the print setup option include:

- Print part of the image by specifying the print area
- Print multiple copies of a single image
- Print images with a date imprint
- Specify the exact size of a print

Printer status information displayed on the digital still camera includes:

- Establishment of a connection
- Printer Error
- Printing progress
- End of print job
- Cable can be safely disconnected

*1 Picture Transfer Protocol (PTP) is a standard developed by the International Imaging Industry Association enabling image-files to be transferred between a digital still camera and a PC via USB.
*2 Digital Print Order Format (DPOF) enables print instructions, such as which image files should be printed and in what quantity, to be stored with the photo images on the recording media.

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For more information please contact the Camera & Imaging Products Association (CIPA) at pictbridgeinfo@cipa.jp