

Two-Way Radios At Lower Prices To Debut at CES

BY GREG SCOBLETE

LAS VEGAS — Hikers, survivalists and suburban commandos will find a variety of lower-cost two-radio options debuting at CES.

Audiovox will introduce the GMRS8018RC, offering an 18 mile range and a built-in race car scanner/receiver that lets users listen in on conversations occurring in the pits at racing events.

The radio, which is available in a two pack for a suggested \$59.99, packs a dual desktop recharger for its NiMH batteries. It features 22 by 38 channels, a built-in LED flashlight, a pair of headphones, Voice Operated Transmitter (VOX)

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Solar-Powered Radar Detector Due From Q3

BY AMY GILROY

LAS VEGAS—Q3 Innovations is introducing one of the first solar-powered radar detectors as well as a consumer-aimed breathalyzer to test for blood-alcohol levels.

The new solar-powered radar detector sits on the dashboard and "literally recharges itself" via a solar battery, said Q3 president Chad Ronnebaum. Called the RadarHAWK SM, it is a full-band detector with laser and POP mode detection. It works even on a cloudy day when there is no sun, said the company. It ships in January at a suggested retail of \$129. The company plans to sell the detector through online retailers.

Q3 is also offering what it claims is the first breathalyzer for the consumer market to use the same reliable fuel-cell sensors employed in police breathalyzers. Called the AlcoHAWK, it has a suggested price of \$300, compared with professional units at \$500 to \$1,000.

The user breathes into the AlcoHAWK, which then calculates blood-alcohol levels. It will be sold initially through specialty catalogs, said the company. **CES**

Sony Mylo Bolsters Wi-Fi Communications

BY JOSEPH PALENCHAR

LAS VEGAS — Sony redesigned its Wi-Fi-equipped Mylo personal communicator and bolstered its feature set to accelerate sales and expand its targeted age group, product manager Phil Boyle announced.

The second-generation model, due this month, adds new communications-related features and assumes a trimmed-down appearance that's less toy-like, he explained. Some of the changes will expand the target demographic to 14- to 22-year-olds from 18- to 22-year-olds.

Some of the new features include an improved Web-surfing experience, the addition of AOL Instant Messaging to join Google Talk and Yahoo Messenger IM services, preloaded games, flash-format video to stream YouTube and other social-network videos via Wi-Fi, and built-in digital camera, making it possible to post pictures taken by the Mylo to a blog or social-network site.

The new model ships this month at an



Sony's Mylo communicator/PMP

expected everyday \$299, down \$50 from the original Mylo's launch price.

Though the Mylo offers the music and video-playback capabilities of a portable media player (PMP), Sony considers the

device a personal communicator because its main mission is to "replicate the PC communications experience when you're mobile," Boyle explained. Mylo, for

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Vonage Bows Branding Move, Home Systems

BY GREG SCOBLETE

LAS VEGAS — Vonage will initiate a new branding strategy at International CES, introducing three new VoIP devices with only the Vonage name emblazoned on it.

According to Dan Smires, digital voice product manager, the company will continue to support existing co-branded products from Motorola and D-Link and will selectively co-brand new products for specific technology applications. But many new devices, including its three new International CES introductions, will carry just the Vonage name.



The new V-Portal terminal adapter from Vonage will use an integrated LCD to display network status and error messages.

"We thought it was a good transition as we begin to roll out more ad-

vanced features," Smires said. "We think we've done a good job getting people familiar with the Vonage name."

The branded hardware strategy dovetails with the company's push to promote more advanced calling features, Smires said. The goal is to integrate these features more directly into its branded hardware, Smires said.

"We offer a news and weather service, so it would be easy to make a dedicated 'news' button on a cordless handset," he said.

The VoIP firm will debut three new

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Manufacturers Casting Audio Net At Show

BY JOSEPH PALENCHAR

LAS VEGAS — More wired and wireless audio-network devices turning up here at CES let music follow consumers as they roam around the house.

Many of the system take shape as adapters to connect to existing sound systems, but suppliers are also launching dedicated networked-audio systems.

Here at CES:

- High-end speaker maker **Thiel** is launching its first audio-network sys-

tem, which sends two-channel and multichannel audio via Ethernet, wireless, and powerline pipes from a central hub/controller to networked amplifiers and speakers throughout the house.

- **Logitech** is offering multizone wireless-network capability with its Squeezebox Duet Network Music System, which uses a handheld RF remote with color screen to control multiple Squeezebox Duet players, or digital media adapters (DMAs), located through-

out the house. The players stream music from the PC or directly from the Internet.

- **Philips** is updating its current wireless multizone systems and launching a wireless digital media adapter (DMA) that streams music from a networked PC and, via broadband modem, directly from Web-based radio stations and music services.

- **PowerLinx** of St. Petersburg, Fla., is

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