TETRACAM INC

Better Science Through Advanced Imaging

TETRACAM INTRODUCES NEW MICRO-MCA PRODUCT LINE

Chatsworth, CA March 2015: This month Tetracam introduced its new Micro-MCA product line for immediate sales throughout its international reseller network. The Micro-MCA is the latest incarnation of Tetracam's two decade old line of MCA (Multiple Camera Array) multi-spectral imaging systems.

Throughout the years, Tetracam's MCA Systems have been a popular choice among remote sensing professionals around the world. This is due to the user-configurable bands of radiation they are able to sense and the high-resolution multi-spectral images they are able to deliver. As with its predecessor, the company's market-leading Mini-MCA systems that immediately preceded the Micro-MCAs, these systems are available in an array of four, six, or twelve cameras but today's systems are lighter, more compact, faster and more feature-filled than the Mini-MCAs.

Basic differences between the Mini-MCA and Micro-MCA systems are as follows:

Choice of Sensors: Micro-MCA systems are available with either of two sensors; a standard 1.3 Mega-pixel (1280 x 1024) rolling shutter sensor or an ultra-fast 1.3 Mega-pixel (1280 x 1024) global snap shutter sensor. Systems with standard sensors have high spectral fidelity and an economic price. They are suitable for fixed installations or applications where motion is modest such as aboard a manned fixed wing aircraft at altitudes greater than 2,500 feet AGL. Systems with global snap shutters expose the entire image at the same instant. These systems are preferred for use where reducing motion artifacts is essential such as in manned aircraft at altitudes lower than about 2,500 feet, or when used in fast or low-flying UAVs.

Smaller: The Micro-MCA has the same width and depth as the Mini-MCA but its height has dropped from 74.93 mm to 68.1 mm.

Lighter: The Micro-MCA is about 15% lighter than its predecessor. Weights of the new systems are as follows:


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Micro-MCA4:   1.09 lbs.  (497  g)
Micro-MCA6:   1.16 lbs.  (530  g)
Micro-MCA12:  2.56 lbs. (1160 g)
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Easy Access Control Panel: The new system is equipped with a system Control Panel that gives users easy access to Take Picture and System Menu Control buttons. The Control Panel also provides convenient above-system access to the Power, Serial, Video and the Multi-IO connectors.
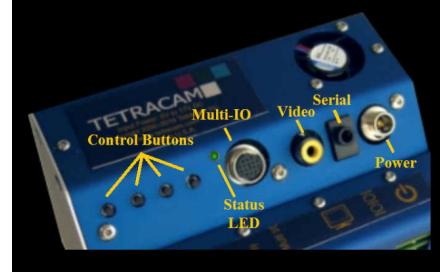
Larger Image Memory: Accessible through cut-outs on the left and right sides of the unit, the system is equipped with 16 GB micro SD memories instead of the Mini-MCA's 2 GB CF cards. Each Micro-MCA camera can capture 12000 RAW 8-bit images.

Faster Interface: On the left side of the unit, the new system is equipped with an enhanced USB 2.0 interface. This is approximately ten times (10X) faster than the Mini-MCA's hybrid USB 2.0 USB - 1.1 interface. The new interface allows users to transfer images from the system's cameras at a blistering 480 megabits per second or 60 megabytes per second.

Six Pack Micro SD Card Reader: For power users who do not want to tie up their aircraft and Micro-MCA while the system is transferring images from the cameras to a host computer, Tetracam has come out with a Six Pack Micro SD Card Reader. Users can unload micro SD cards into the Six Pack freeing the aircraft and Micro-MCA to continue remote sensing operations. When this option is connected to a host computer running PixelWrench2, it looks exactly like the camera array to the software, and all processing can proceed as if the host computer were connected to a system.

e-ILS: On the back of the Micro-MCA, the new system has a connector that enables the system's Master camera to trigger an optional electronic incident light sensor. The e-ILS gathers down-welling radiation at the same wavelengths and same time that up-welling reflected radiation is captured by the Micro-MCA. This enables PixelWrench2 to represent each pixel in every image by its reflectance value; i.e., that fraction of incident radiation reflected back to the camera from the area under observation. Unlike the Mini-MCA, the Micro-MCA e-ILS does not require sacrificing an MCA camera position.

Lower Price: The standard Micro-MCA is less expensive than the Mini-MCA. The price of the standard Micro-MCA4 is under $10,000 USD. For more information on all of Tetracam's products, visit www.tetracam.com or contact a Tetracam dealer near you.