

PRODUCT REVIEW AND UPDATE

Products available for NTIA's Digital to Analog Translator Conversion Program

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This NTIA program is still active and is designed to award you \$1,000 (per FCC licensed translator). It will assist in the conversion of an analog translator for 8VSB reception with NTSC video and baseband audio levels sufficient to drive an analog translator. In essence, you can breathe new life into your system and continue running analog during the transition. Best of all, you will take advantage of the qualitative benefits of digital.

The NTA annual May meeting in Spokane this year presented a wealth of information. Wonderful products from **DTV Exchange** (Rick Barber 985-781-1790), **R.L. Drake** (Steve Dormitzer 800-867-4532), and **Medex** (Darwin Hillberry 307-856-3322) were all there with some exciting new product entries. These products were all mentioned in greater detail in the prior edition of the NTA newsletter. KNME-TV (PBS) has purchased and used all of these products in the field and they work well.

Here are some products were new at this year's NTA Exhibitor Show:

Blonder Tongue – The “ADQ” series allows you to build a system with a new **ATSC Demodulator Module** combined with a Power Supply/Control Module and an NTSC Modulator Module. Worth a look: <http://www.blondertongue.com> ...or call them or a distributor directly.

Technalogix – Bob Gullon has an interesting solution designed to fit neatly into the budget of the NTIA \$1,000 grant program that is elegant and rack mountable. <http://www.technalogix.ca/> or call Bob directly at (403) 347-5400.

Sencore – This is the South Dakota based company that specializes in high-end products for Broadcast, Satellite and Cable. Sencore was there with their own custom solution to allow you to put a digital front-end on your Analog Translator, receive digital and continue running until sometime in the future. Check out the “**Atlas Gear AG-3803**” module that can help you build a digital front-end system for your analog translator. You can find Sencore at www.sencore.com or call them directly at 1-800-SEN-CORE (736-2673).

Wishing you the *Best of Luck* and continued success in the months ahead.

- JG

Ed. Note: we have learned that R. L. Drake is offering NTA members a \$3000 credit line and will ship directly to members.

Useful FCC Info

Link to the most current FCC rules:

http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov/cgi/t/text/textidx?&c=ecfr&tpl=/ecfrbrowse/Title47/47tab_02.tpl

Two important FCC Emergency Alert System (EAS) links...

The EAS Handbook for TV: http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-278628A5.pdf

FCC list of certified EAS equipment vendors: <http://www.fcc.gov/pshs/services/eas/vendors.html>

Informal discussions with the FCC lead us to believe an LPTV filing opportunity may be announced later this year. If interested, research your desired locations, find channels and study

their interference situation in advance so that filing can occur smoothly. It could be quite difficult to locate engineering help at the last minute.

Changing to LP-DT operation?

You must submit a CP application which the FCC will fully study. If a flashcut, simply changing to digital operation may cause interference. Thus, your application will require interference study. If a successful application for a new CP is not workable, you must find a reason for displacement to a new channel, which will also require a full application process including an interference study. For a new digital installation, consider a newer or improved antenna. Digital signals require a quality antenna that's flat across its bandwidth for best performance.