Convergent Design Announces Erika AI
Face-Tracking, Quad-Camera, Ultra-Fast Switching

(3 June 2022, Colorado Springs, CO) Convergent Design announced their new Erika AI system for conferencing and live-streaming applications. Erika AI highlights include face-tracking, support for up to four UHD cameras, and ultra-fast (0.25 second) voice-activated switching. Each participant (up to 20) has their own unique (virtual) camera and wireless microphone, enabling a superior close-up view with minimal echoes and reverb.

Erika AI employs off-the-shelf large sensor 4K DSLR/mirrorless cameras. The system then creates up to 5 zones from each camera, outlining each participant. These five zones combined with 4-cameras enable support for up to 20 participants. Switching among any of the 20 participants still occurs in 0.25-second.

Erika AI wireless mics typically reside on the edge of the conference table near each speaker. The tiny mics do not intrude on the workspace; users can freely take notes or type on a laptop. The mics can also be worn, via a simple magnetic attachment, facilitating free movement about the conference area. The 25-hour battery coupled with auto power on/off minimizes recharge downtime. Individual mics can be muted by simply turning face-down. Auto-level control eliminates voice strain; participants can speak in a normal tone. The typical setup time is under 15 minutes, making the system easy to reconfigure.

A complete Erika AI system consists of 1-4 cameras, 1-20 wireless Erika mics, one USB-based wireless receiver, and a PC/laptop running the Erika AI app. Erika is compatible with most UCC applications, including Zoom, Teams, Meet, Webex, and BlueJeans. Additionally, live-streaming programs such as OBS, VMix, Wirecast, and Pro Presenter are supported.

The Erika AI app enables the placement of each zone (virtual camera) within each camera using a simple click and drag combined with scroll-wheel size adjustment. In addition, the names and titles of each participant can be added for display on the conference app screen. A unique solo mode locks the system to a specific speaker, eliminating potential false switches due to coughs, sneezes, and other noises.

Erika AI requires a discrete Nvidia GPU to process the face-tracking and enhanced features such as noise reduction, echo cancellation, and super scaler. Currently, the video input is USB-based via an HDMI/SDI to USB converter. However, future updates will include NDI wired and wireless support and Stream Deck-based remote-control.

See Erika AI in action at InfoComm 2022, booth W1775. www.convergent-design.com