
PRESS RELEASE

Anti-Ageing for FIDS Screens

Mostly used 24 hours a day 7 days a week for many years, FIDS screens are definitively more stressed than conventional commercial TVs and monitors. Display of mostly static information, dust and other environmental influences in public buildings are further criteria for wear and tear of the displays.

Some years ago, the so called burn-in effect both, CRT and PDP technology being active displays using phosphor as their light emitting material, were facing had to be accepted as no other technology was available. This changed with the introduction of large screen LCD/TFT displays in 2002. The expectations were high as LCD is not an active display but merely a "light switching" device, subject to no wear and tear apart from the aging of the backlight tubes.

Unfortunately shortly after the first installations, reality told a different tale and everybody, including the panel manufactures faced a surprise. Suddenly there was talk of "Image Sticking", "Boundary Line", and "Uneven Picture" or whatever other designations were given to the disturbances visible on the screens.

Panels that were originally developed for TV applications turned out to behave entirely different when put under the stress of continuous operation in public environment. Chemical reactions within the panels caused a deterioration of performance that became visible on the screens in 24h/7d use when displaying static images.

In the meantime it is generally recognised that all LCD/TFT panels have a limited lifetime and are subject to some kind of static image effects that become visible after a certain time of operation.

CONRAC GmbH is constantly testing the long term performance of LCD/TFT panels from various manufacturers in its own test lab, where the panels are continuously stressed using extreme test patterns at 40°C ambient temperature for months and years. In addition to selecting the best performing LCD/TFT panels, CONRAC's engineers have developed a variety of countermeasures to combat these effects, which are combined and are marketed under the CONRAC cTEC label. cTEC is fully implemented in all CONRAC's Public Displays including controller hardware and software providing measures to greatly increase the lifetime of the displays using LCD/TFT panels.

The use of dedicated products developed for FIDS applications with cTEC features such as ALC (Ambient Light Control), Dynamic Pixel Refreshing, Pixel Shifting, Temperature Control System provide an airport operator with the best possible solution with the lowest operational costs.

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PHOTOGRAPHS SUPPLIED

- conrac_001.jpg: Special in-house facility for long-term stress testing of LCD/TFT displays at 40°C
- conrac_002.jpg: Flight information displayed on CONRAC 46 inch Public Displays installed in portrait mode at Frankfurt Airport, Germany