

Education a key focus at InfoComm '06

Companies display new AV products for schools and colleges

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Thousands of buyers and sellers of audiovisual (AV) technologies convened in Orlando in June for the annual InfoComm trade show—and many of the new products they discussed were aimed at schools.

InfoComm organizers say this year's show was the largest ever, with a record 770 exhibitors participating. Reflecting strong demand for AV technologies in education and other markets, attendance for the three-day conference topped 26,000, show organizers said.

One of the topics causing quite a buzz at the show was the “going green” of new AV technologies. New environmental regulations, called the “RoHS” directives (for “Restrictions of Hazardous Substances”), went into effect July 1 for all new electronics products sold in Europe—and they go into effect Jan. 1, 2007, for those sold in California. As a result, many vendors were promoting the fact that their latest products are RoHS-compliant.

For instance, **GTCO CalComp** announced that its InterWrite PRS RF product is now 100-percent compliant with RoHS directives. The system enables students to answer questions and interact in the classroom with wireless, radio-frequency “clickers.” A two-line Liquid Crystal Display (LCD) screen enables educators to ask advanced numeric questions that include positive and negative numbers and fractions, in addition to multiple choice or even short-answer questions. Teachers can receive instant student feedback, stir classroom discussion, quickly and easily grade tests and quizzes, and even take attendance using the system, the company says.