

[EE Times:](#)

HDBaseT Alliance attacks HDMI with new spec

Consumer home interconnect aims to leapfrog HDMI

 Print |  Email |  Reprints |  RSS |  Digital |

[EE Times](#)

(06/29/2010 5:31 PM EDT)

SAN JOSE, Calif. — LG Electronics, Samsung Electronics, Sony Pictures Entertainment and Valens Semiconductor formally launched the [HDBaseT Alliance](#) and the version 1.0 of the HDBaseT specification. The consumer home interconnect is [one of a handful](#) seeking to challenge the dominance of [HDMI](#) by providing more bandwidth, reach or networking capabilities.

Israeli startup [Valens uses](#) a powerful DSP to handle distances of up to 100 meters over Category 5e cables with standard Ethernet connectors. Unlike some alternatives, its technique can also carry up to 100W of power to drive a Blu-Ray player or monitor.

Proponents claim HDBaseT can handle whole-home distribution of uncompressed high definition video, audio, 100BaseT Ethernet, power over cable and control signals. It supports 1080-pixel progressive video as well as stereo 3-D and 2Kx4K formats.

"The next frontier in networking is the ability to control and distribute content," said Brian O'Rourke, principal analyst, In-Stat, speaking in a press statement from the alliance. "HDBaseT technology is well-positioned to offer a simple solution throughout the home to meet consumers' needs," he said.

The alliance expects products compliant with its new spec will be available in the second half of 2010. The group is still developing a compliance program, logo and details of its licensing program. The alliance expects to launch the licensing program before the end of the year.

The group has at least two direct competitors in addition to the widely used HDMI interconnect developed with technology from Silicon Image. A handful of former Silicon Image executives created Synerchip Inc. and launched a spec called [Diiva](#) in late April 2009 to compete with HDMI 1.4.

In addition, [Icron Technologies](#) (Burnaby, British Columbia) has hardware to drive USB beyond its five meter limit and is designing a chip that also handles uncompressed video over 100 meters over Cat5 cables, powerline or 802.11n. The Icron approach is a point-to-point link and does not support Ethernet.