

P&F's Philips Brand Readies Its First 4K Blu-ray Player

Player due in June, to join Samsung's offering

By Joseph Palenchar

P&F USA will become the second CE supplier to offer a 4K Ultra HD Blu-ray player in the U.S. with the June shipment of a model priced at a suggested \$399, the same price as Samsung's player.

The Philips-brand player will be available in two \$399 versions. The BDP7501 will feature a brushed-aluminum chassis, and the BDP7301 will come with piano-black chassis.

Panasonic also plans to offer a 4K Blu-ray player later this year.

The Philips player features 4K up-scaling of non-4K discs, playback of 3D Blu-ray discs, Dolby TrueHD and DTS-HD Master Audio surround decoding, passthrough of Dolby Atmos and DTS:X object-based surround to AVRs, built-in HEVC and VP9 video decoders (the latter for 4K YouTube content), HDMI 2.0a output, and an HDMI 1.4a output, which is designed to connect to audio/video receivers whose legacy HDMI connections can't pass through HDCP 2.2-protected 4K video.

Like the Samsung player, the Philips player supports the Open HDR high-dynamic range (HDR) format required by the Blu-ray Disc Association but not the optional Dolby Vision HDR format.

The Philips player also features Wi-Fi 802.11ac, Ethernet and USB support for HEVC, H.264, AVCHD, AAC, MP3, JPEG and other audio and video formats. Netflix and YouTube streaming services are included. It also plays CDs and DVDs. The player lacks optional Digital Bridge capability.

The Samsung player has been certified by the UHD Alliance as meeting the group's 4K player performance criteria, unveiled in April. In January, the alliance unveiled certification standards for TVs, 4K Blu-ray discs, and streaming 4K con-



P&F USA's Philips-brand 4K Blu-ray player will retail for a suggested \$399.

tent. Products and content that meet alliance criteria for resolution, HDR, peak luminance, black levels, wide color gamut, and other metrics are allowed to wear the Ultra HD Premium logo.

P&F USA, a subsidiary of Funai Electric Co., is the exclusive North American licensee for Philips TVs and home video products.



T-Mobile CEO John Legere announcing Binge On and other initiatives in late 2015

T-Mobile Keeps Bingeing, Adds More Video

T-Mobile expanded its Binge On video-streaming program for the fifth time since its November launch, enabling consumers to stream video from more than 80 video services without dipping into their high-speed data buckets.

In early April, the carrier announced the expansion of Binge On services to 62, and in March, T-Mobile announced an expansion to more than 50 services.

Binge On launched in November with only 24 video-streaming providers. The program reduces the resolution of streaming services to DVD quality. In return, subscribers don't incur data charges when they stream the video from participating Binge On services. From nonparticipating streaming services, subscribers can fill their high-speed data buckets with three times more video than before.

The newest services participating in Binge On include Great Big Story, NBC, Kiswe, Ligonier Ministries, Noggin, Qello Concerts, Radio Disney, Univision, Univision Noticias and Toon Goggles. The music videos of Google Play Music, Spotify and Tidal are also now available.

Other participating services include Google Play Movies, YouTube, Sling, Hulu, Netflix and HBO Now.

Also in early April, T-Mobile announced the addition of six more music-streaming services to its Music Freedom program to 42 participating streaming services. Music from participating music services can be streamed without the used data being counted against a subscriber's data cap. — **Joseph Palenchar**

Peerless-AV Offers 3 New Outdoor TVs

By John Laposky

Peerless-AV has expanded its roster of all-season outdoor TVs with the new UltraView line.

The completely weatherproof line is positioned by the company as an affordable option for outdoor living spaces.

Screen sizes include 49-, 55- and 65-inch options. The TVs are equipped with a FullHD 1080p LED backlight. The UltraView TVs also come with an IP68-rated waterproof and dustproof universal remote that can be programmed to control up to three additional devices.

The UltraView models have weatherproof internal speakers and the ability to operate at a range of -24 degrees to 122 degrees F.

Installation of the UltraView TVs is best suited for shaded outdoor areas and out of direct sunlight, the company said.

"With warmer weather upon us, we are thrilled to offer a new line of solutions ideal for homeowners looking to enhance their outdoor living at a fraction of the cost of some other outdoor displays on the market," said Todd Mares, Peerless-AV's director of emerging technologies.

The 49- and 55-inch UltraView models are available now through Peerless-AV direct sales representatives and authorized distributors. The 65-inch UltraView TV will be available in July.



Three new UltraView TVs are positioned as affordably priced 1080p options.