

8mm Japanese exports

VCR rocks market

United Press International
 ICHNOMIYA, Japan — Less than 10 years after Sony introduced the first home videocassette recorder, VCR makers are poised on a springboard that could send the vigorous industry into the stratosphere — or trigger a bloody video war.

Overall production in Japan reached 18.2 million units last year and a record 15.2 million VCRs were exported, a 43 percent increase over the previous year.

The pace shows no sign of slackening. August exports set a new record at 1.996 million units, an increase of 51.5 percent, with shipments to the United States up 89.6 percent to \$305 million.

The VHS-format group led by Matsushita and Victor Co. of Japan (JVC) controls some 70 percent of the multibillion dollar world market while Sony (Beta-format) controls the remaining 30 percent.

With this record of success, the industry leaders are naturally reluctant to rock the boat, but observers agree the VHS and Beta-dominated half-inch VCR market is about to be vigorously shaken up — if not blown sky high.

The troublemaker is light-weight 8mm format "mini-VCR." Videocassettes for this system

are roughly the same size as a standard audio cassette. Some 97 Japanese and 25 overseas manufacturers reached an industry-wide standardization agreement last year with far-reaching implications.

The first to enter the new market will be Eastman Kodak. Matsushita has agreed to supply 8mm

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camera-recorder VCR systems to Kodak, which is selling them in North America under its Kodavision label.

A Kodak spokesman said the five-pound camera-recorder unit is aimed at the consumer who wants to make home movies using videotape technology. Kodak will have the machines in stores this month. The smaller of two models has a list price of \$1,599.

Canon Inc., Japan's No. 1 camera maker, and Sanyo Electric, the nation's No. 4 home appliance maker, have developed mini-VCR systems and are expected to begin marketing them in Japan within the next few months.

Toshiba signed an agreement with Polaroid Corp. to develop and market a similar system, expected to be on the market in time for Christmas.

Although conventional VCR systems may survive indefinitely alongside the smaller, portable systems, for different purposes, like conventional and "micro" audio cassettes, industry analysts are unanimous: mini-VCR is the wave of the future.

Takao Kanaoka, the engineer responsible for developing Sony's revolutionary Trinitron TV, agrees.

"Sony has done extensive research and we're waiting for the time to be right to introduce our product. We have the technology," said Kanaoka, president of Sony Ichinomiya Corp., a subsidiary that makes televisions, VCRs and half-inch "Betamovie" camera-recorders.

Several companies also have developed erasable videodiscs and research is underway to bring the quality up to the level of conventional, non-erasable discs.

Innovations in the recording mechanism naturally will be matched by innovations in the viewing mechanism. The so-called "flat TV" — a very thin screen that might be hung on a wall — is not far away.

A&M gets \$500,000 for business college

University News Service
 The Cullen Trust for Higher Education has awarded a \$500,000 endowment to Texas A&M's College of Business Administration to establish an academic chair in honor of Sidney V. Smith.

Smith is a 1944 Texas A&M graduate and vice chairman of the board of the Home Co. in Houston.

The Houston-based trust stipulated that the funds be matched by the University's Endowed Scholars Program to establish a second chair, the Hugh Roy Cullen Chair in Business Administration.

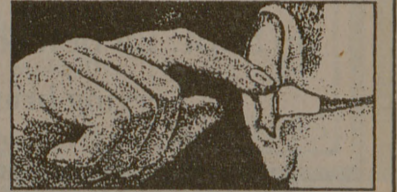
The Texas A&M System Board of Regents appropriated an additional \$10 million earlier this week for

matching funds for such gifts. Dr. William Mobley, dean of Texas A&M's College of Business Administration, said the Cullen gift could be instrumental in building new international ties beneficial to Houston, and the nation.

The gift may be used to provide strong leadership for the business college by employing a prominent international business professor, he said.

The chairs made possible by the Cullen trust bring to 26 the number of endowed faculty positions in the College of Business Administration. The endowments total more than \$5 million, Mobley said.

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Elder gets extension

United Press International
 CORPUS CHRISTI — U.S. District Judge Hayden Head Jr. Wednesday granted Jack Elder's defense extra time to seek dismissal of felony charges against the Sanctuary Movement leader.

Elder, 41, is the director of Casa Oscar Romero, a church-sponsored refugee center for Central Americans at San Benito near the Texas-Mexico border. The Vietnam veteran is charged in a three-count indictment with transporting a group of Salvadorans from the center to a

bus station in Harlingen. Defense attorney Stephen Cooper said he asked for the extension Wednesday because typing the court-ordered statements was taking longer than expected.

Among the 21 depositions submitted Wednesday were statements from Robert White, former U.S. ambassador to El Salvador, and Bill Ford, brother of Ita Ford, one of four churchwomen assassinated by Salvadoran national guardsmen.

Cooper said nine more depositions will be submitted.

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