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Sony Develops Wireless Power Transfer System â€“ 60W over 50 cm

make.believe at full speed ahead

You know, when Sir Howard Stringer, Sony's CEO, introduced the make.believe slogan at IFA 2009, I found it a bit hilarious, because it reminded me of something related to the illusory, rather than something real. However, over the past couple of days, Sony has started to prove what it meant with make.believe, since it's released some innovations that, at first sight, seem taken right out of the future.

So, after reading yesterday about its single-lens 3D HD camera system, it's about time to look at yet another very impressive technological innovation achieved by the Japanese company, namely a wireless power transfer system that delivers a very good level of efficiency, somewhere around 60 Watts of power over a distance of 50cm (that translates into an efficiency of approximately 80%; approximately 60% including rectifier).

According to Sony, this wireless power transfer system incorporates a form of contactless electrical energy transmission technology based on magnetic resonance. With magnetic resonance, electromagnetic energy is only transferred to recipient devices that share the identical resonant frequencies as the energy source, so energy transfer efficiency is maintained, even when misalignment occurs. Furthermore, even if there are metal objects located between the transmitter and receiver, no heat induction occurs.

Moreover, Sony claims that the transfer distance can also be expanded using passive extender units, placed between the transmitter and receiver units, without any degradation in efficiency. Based on fundamental experiments conducted using the component devices only, transfer distance can be extended from 50cm to 80cm. Although relatively large transmitter and receiver units are generally required for transferring energy over long distances, passive extender units can be used to relay power between small-sized transmitter and receiver units.

The importance of such a system is absolutely huge, obviously. I mean sure, there might be some practical small-scale applications in the near future as well, but what I imagine is a house filled with all sorts of high-end electronics, all powered wirelessly from a single source

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