



Kinoton GmbH
Industriestraße 20a
82110 Germering
Germany

Contact:

Astrid Stürner
Marketing/PR
stuerner@kinoton.de

www.kinoton.de
www.kinoton.com

Tel: +49 (0) 89 / 89 44 46-89
Fax: +49 (0) 89 / 8 40 20 02

Press Release

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Hollywood loves „Made in Germany“

Everybody knows the glamour of the Academy Awards ceremony – stars and starlets, cheering fans, and breathless suspense: Who will take an “Oscar” home this year?

But the famous Oscar statuette is not the only prize the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Science gives away. It also rewards outstanding achievements in film and studio technology. And this year a German company won one of the Scientific and Engineering Awards: Kinoton GmbH in Germering/Munich.

The international supplier of modern cinema and studio technology was honoured for the development of the electronically driven FP 30 EC II and FP 38 EC II projectors. These high-speed projectors have revolutionised studio work by offering all these important features: They reel forward and reverse at the same high speeds as sound and dubbing devices, change seamlessly between projection and shuttle mode and at the same time provide perfect image quality. This makes them the state-of-the-art choice for post-production viewing, copy check and dubbing, resulting in their use by all major studios including Warner Brothers, Universal and Technicolor.

FP 30 EC II is perfect for 35 mm films, FP 38 EC II handles 16 mm and super 16 formats as well. The automatic shuttling system needs only 3 seconds to accelerate from normal projection speed of 24 fps to a rapid 300 fps in shuttle mode, and immediately returns to projection mode. The automatic zero location makes it easy to find the desired starting frame again. The projection speed can be varied between one and 50 frames per second.

The classic Maltese cross drive could never meet such demands; but for the patented electronic EC sprocket drive, these speeds are a piece of cake. At the same time the microprocessor controlled film-core shafts ensure smooth film transport to guarantee maximum film protection. Due to a continuously running electronically controlled shutter with 2-wing and 3-wing shutter modes, projection is absolutely flicker-free. Mechanical tolerances are compensated electronically to assure perfect picture steadiness. And as to focus and contrast, these studio projectors have set new standards.

Both EC projectors can be used as master and slave and are easily connected to computer systems by an RS 232 interface. The integrated reverse scan sound head with flywheel spin-up is suitable for analog sound tracks and DOLBY DIGITAL. Robust construction and reliable operation make FP 30/38 EC II a worthwhile investment for every professional studio.

For Kinoton, the Scientific and Engineering Award is another proof that their business philosophy is correct. “We keep quite a large development and design department,” Kinoton’s managing director Renate Zoller explains. “So we can respond to each change of market requirements with appropriate new product developments to meet our customer’s needs. I dare say this makes us the most innovative supplier of professional projection equipment. And it really pays to take the effort: This is our second Scientific and Engineering Award – the first one we got in 1987 for the development of the first platter system, which today are standard equipment in every projection room.”

On February 14, Kinoton’s managing directors Renate Zoller and Christoph Dobler and development engineer Gerald Wilke gratefully accepted the award in the Ritz-Carlton hotel in Los Angeles.



Gehard Wilke, Renate Zoller and Christoph Dobler at the Academy Awards ceremony



A real winner: FP 38 EC II studio projector