*What is IEEE1394?

IEEE1394, also know as Apple's FireWire® and Sony's i.LINK,® is an industry standard for a scalable, flexible, easy to use, low-cost digital interface that integrates the worlds of consumer electronics and personal computers. It was first conceived by Apple Computer and then developed by the 1394 Working Group within the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE).

The IEEE1394 standard defines its interface as:

• **Digital.** 1394 does not require the conversion of digital data into analogue. That means better signal integrity.

• **Physically small.** 1394 provides a thin serial cable which replaces today's bulky and expensive interfaces.

• **Easy to use.** 1394 eliminates the need to load software or perform complicated set-ups.

• **Hot pluggable.** 1394 enables devices to be added and removed while equipment is turned on and does not require computers to be "rebooted."

• **Scalable.** 1394 supports multiple speeds including devices operating at 100, 200 and 400 Megabits per second on a single continuous cable or "bus."

• **Flexible.** 1394 supports freeform daisy chaining and branching, which reduces cabling complexity and supports "peer-to-peer" connections — the ability for consumer electronic devices to be connected without the need for a computer.

• **Fast.** 1394 supports guaranteed delivery of time critical data which enables high-quality audio and video applications while reducing the cost of the interface.