NETIA and NAGRA: In partnership for journalism.

In March 2001, NETIA and NAGRA (designer of self-powered digital recorders) formed a partnership to develop new features and functions for the equipment used by journalists.

This partnership has made it possible to develop a special software program for hard-disk import of sound files stored on PCMCIA memory cards like Flash, Strata Flash and ATA and recorded with the NAGRA portable digital recorders ARES-C, ARES-P and RCX-220.

One great feature of this program is that sound files can be imported from "virtual" files created with the NAGRA ARES-C digital player-recorder.

ARES-C is equipped with an internal editor which means it can handle editing functions such as cut, copy and paste. Files are edited on the PCMCIA card in a "virtual" way , meaning that, unlike an edited audio tape, the original file stays intact. File editing is effected using input and output points and the result is stored as an EDL (Edit Decision List) file, representing the list of required points.

There are many advantages to virtual editing. As the original file is not modified, EDL files can be created on the basis of a single sound take as often as required to obtain the desired result. Several sound takes of the same format on the card can also be edited.

An EDL file takes up very little room on a PCMCIA card, so even if the card holds a large number of sound takes, there will still be enough space for several edited files.

The import program handles the EDL input and output points and links all the sections marked out by these points to generate a sound file and import it in the format and to the directory specified.
There are several file import parameters available for the format and the import target directory (Raw Mpeg, Linear Wave, etc.).

Transferring reports is then quicker and easier, meaning journalists can increase their productivity and speed of response.

This program is really easy to use, with a single window containing all the functions required. When a card is inserted into the PCMCIA drive, the program browses the data on the card and extracts them in the form of a list. A file pre-play function is constantly available before import. All the information on the files can be viewed: name, length, size in bytes, sound format, etc. There is a special column to indicate whether it is an EDL file or a sound take.

The program uses the Windows 98, Windows 2000, Windows Millennium Edition and Windows NT 4 operating systems and works with all Windows-compatible sound cards as well as Digigram PCX cards.

It requires a PCMCIA card reader on a PCI or ISA bus connected to the computer and supports Elan (for ATA cards and others) or SwapFTL (for ISA buses only) drivers and internal or external SCSI readers.

This program developed by Netia is compatible with a range of digital systems used by radios and will shortly be distributed to the public by NAGRA.