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Dear Producers,

Question: What’s the difference between LCD projection and DLP projection? Which will work best for my show?

Answer: Like everything else in the meetings industry, even choosing a projector throws us into a big old pot of Alphabet Soup! The dominant technologies in digital projection each have their own advantages, so selecting the proper equipment depends on the specific needs of your event.

LCD or “liquid crystal display” projectors operate by using three separate glass panels to mix red, green and blue components to create pixels, which in turn form the images we seen on a screen. Various combinations of light shine through the glass panels to modulate the pixel and produce the desired image.

DLP or “digital light processing” projectors

use a color wheel to reflect light off of thousands of tiny mirrors, each representing a single pixel. The mirrors move back and forth to land in the proper position to project the desired image.

Historically, LCD projection delivers better color saturation than DLP and can produce a sharper image. This can be important for data-intensive presentations with lots of charts or diagrams. The downside to LCD projection is more relevant to video. LCD projection can suffer from a more visible pixilation or “screen door” effect (the perception that you are viewing the images through a screen door), which can affect the sharpness of video productions. LCD also has lower contrast levels, which also affects the quality of video images.

DLP projection produces higher contrast and sharper video images; is more compact and easier to transport; and has a greatly diminished “screen door” effect. One disadvantage to DLP is what’s

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known as the “rainbow” effect, Since DLP uses a spinning color wheel to modulate the image, a small number of people can notice the rapidly changing colors as they blend together. This can be annoying to those individuals and can even cause headaches.

So ultimately, if your projection needs will be more data-driven, LCD is probably the best solution. However, if video will be the driver of the presentation, DLP may be your best bet.

Each issue, we try to answer your production-related questions – from logistics to creative and beyond. We find the answers and share the tricks of the trade to help you be better prepared for your next big event. No question is too small to handle. Please submit your queries to us at info@moorepresentations.com. ♦

James Moore, president of Moore Presentations, a full-service presentation design and management company, has worked in video production, presentation design and event execution for more than 25 years. Mike Jorgensen, a multi-media program manager with Puget Sound Energy, has more than 20 years experience in multi-media technology. Terry Onustack, CMP, Moore’s director of operations and marketing, spent nearly 14 years as a corporate meeting and communications manager.

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