# SONY

# X-OCN

WHITE PAPER – V2.0 (FEBRUARY 2024)

# **CONTENTS**

Introduction	2
Key Advantage of X-OCN	3
Exceptional quality with the power of 16 bits	3
Smaller files, Longer recording times	4
Greater decision-making flexibility in post-production	7
Stable image quality with robust encoding	7
Easy to work with full third-party support	8
X-OCN Specifications (VENICE 2 / BURANO)	10
Recording Bitrate	10
Recording Time	11
FPS in Memory Card	13
X-OCN Workflow	16
Workflow Overview (from Capture to Master)	16
Sony RAW Viewer	17
Sony RAW SDK	18
Full Third-party Support	18
Metadata	19
Conclusion	22

# **INTRODUCTION**

Since 2000, Sony has been working on developing Digital Motion Picture Camera System's for cinema industry under the "CineAtla" line over more than 20 years. Starting with the first CineAlta camera, F900, many models have been introduced to the market until now.

We introduced a lot of key technologies such as 24p, RGB444 system, Super35mm image sensor, 4K resolution in F55, and 8K resolution in F65. These models have been contributing to the high-end content creation market such as feature film, TV drama and commercials.

In 2017, we launched the latest cinema camera VENICE equipped with 36x24mm Full-Frame CMOS image sensor.

At the same time as the development of these cinema cameras, we have introduced video formats such as HDCAM and HDCAM-SR, providing YPbPr422 and RGB444 capability.

And then, we evolved RAW format which is native signal data from CMOS sensor before the process of generating video signals.

16 bit	RAW	X-OCN
10 bit	XAVC	HDCAM SR
8 bit		MP€G HD422

In 2016, Sony has released new recording format **X-OCN** (eXtended tonal range Original Camera Negative) – that is Sony's original compressed RAW format.

This format further enhances the compression efficiency of Sony RAW, which delivers visually loss-less image quality.

X-OCN offers uncompromising image capture performance with the power of 16 bits, at low data rates. It processes camera original image data by utilizing a unique algorithm from Sony.

# KEY ADVANTAGE OF X-OCN

- Exceptional quality with the power of 16 bits
- Smaller files, Longer recording times
- Greater decision-making flexibility in post-production
- Stable image quality with robust encoding
- Easy to work with full third-party support

## Exceptional quality with the power of 16 bits

By combining superlative 16-bit precision with surprisingly moderate bit rates, X-OCN opens up powerful new production possibilities. X-OCN produces file sizes much smaller than typical camera RAW, but unlike conventional codecs, X-OCN offers 16-bit scene linear encoding. So, you get the ultimate in tonal expression, longer recording times, faster file transfers and more economical post-production.

Supported by Sony VENICE 2 (natively), BURANO (natively), VENICE and PMW-F55/F5 cameras (in combination with AXS-R7 recorder), the X-OCN format is a game changer achieving up to 8K resolution and High Dynamic Range while maintaining reasonable bitrates.

In this way, X-OCN is ideal for the most advanced workflows, including ACES, Rec.2020, SMPTE ST2084, the extended color space of Sony's S-Gamut3 color and High Dynamic Range tone mapping.

VENICE 2 and BURANO build upon X-OCN's proven success by offering internal 16-bit X-OCN recording without need for an external recorder, dramatically shrinking the form factor while still offering the full dynamic range and color reproduction of the sensor.

Far exceeding 10 and 12-bit formats, 16-bit X-OCN records 65,536 tonal gradations per color component, or over 280 trillion individual shades of color. This is the ultimate in grayscale expression, creating an enormous palette for extreme subtleties in grading and far greater flexibility for colorists and editors alike.

# Smaller files, Longer recording times

X-OCN combines the quality and versatility of RAW with the easy playback and smaller files of traditional codecs. You get longer recording times, faster file transfers and more cost-effective postproduction.

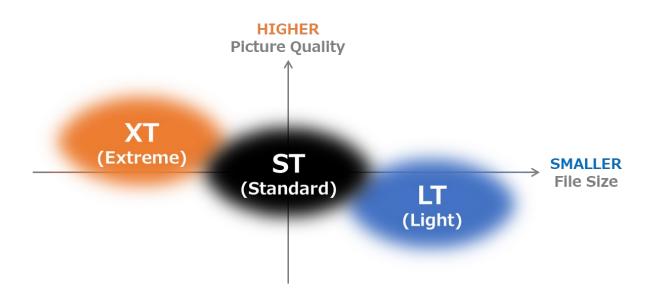
In most cases such as Feature Film, TV Drama or Commercial, Sony would recommend **X-OCN ST** which provides best balance between picture quality and file transfer time / storage size.

For special cases such as visual effects work or contents creation for giant screen, **X-OCN XT** is ideal as it captures the highest quality imagery.

For Mid-Low budget cinema (including TV Drama), Documentary or productions requiring long recording time, **X-OCN LT** is a good option as it provides even smaller file size than X-OCN ST – while preserving the benefit of 16-bit scene linear.

Mode	Major Applications*	Description
X-OCN XT	Giant Screen	Even higher picture quality than X-OCN
(Extreme)	Visual Effects	ST, exceeding Sony RAW quality
	Feature Film	
X-OCN ST	Feature Film	Best balance between picture quality
(Standard)	Episodic Television	and file transfer time / storage size,
	<ul> <li>Commercials</li> </ul>	providing best efficiency in post-
	<ul> <li>Documentary</li> </ul>	production
		Equivalent quality to Sony RAW, even
		with 30% smaller file size
X-OCN LT	Indy Feature	Even smaller file size than X-OCN ST
(Light)	Episodic Television	(with 60% smaller than Sony RAW),
	Commercials	while preserving processing flexibility
	<ul> <li>Documentary</li> </ul>	provided by 16-bit scene linear
	Live Events	

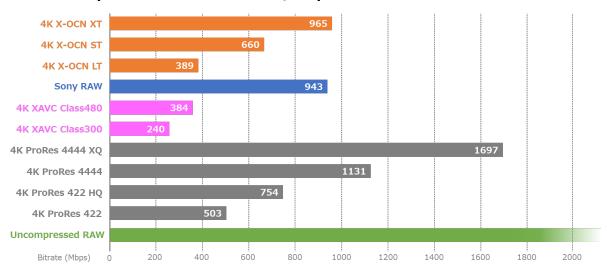
<sup>\*</sup>Actual examples, not meaning each mode is appropriate only for these applications



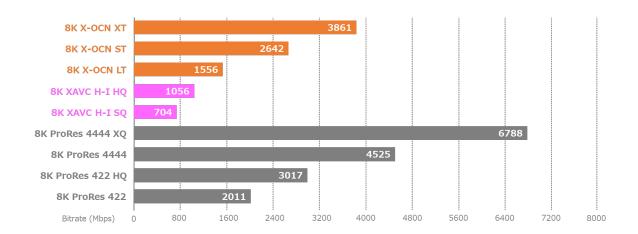
The following bar charts show how the bitrate of X-OCN (Sony's original compressed RAW) is compared to other formats at 4K/24p and 8K/24p.

When it comes to 4K X-OCN LT (389Mbps), it can offer stunning RAW quality with 16-bit scene linear at almost equivalent bitrate to 4K XAVC Class480 (384Mbps) and even at lower bitrate than 4K ProRes 422 (503Mbps).

#### Bitrate Comparison at 4096 x 2160 / 24p



#### Bitrate Comparison at 8192 x 4320 / 24p



## Greater decision-making flexibility in post-production

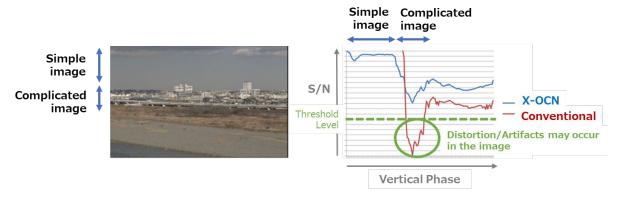
Instead of "baking in" your settings for Exposure Index, color space, LUTs, gamma, log and others, X-OCN captures these parameters as monitoring settings.

This process is completely non-destructive, delivering the full potential of the original sensor data into post-production but with the added advantage of efficient file sizes.

As a result, your colorist and editor are empowered with far greater decision-making flexibility than is possible with conventional video.

### Stable image quality with robust encoding

X-OCN adopts an encoding algorithm which allows to secure uniform picture quality within each frame. It contributes to minimizing risks on any distortion or artifacts in the image, that may be caused by a limitation of conventional encoding.



- Over threshold level: No negative effect visually in the image
- Under threshold level: Distortion/Artifacts may occur in the image

In addition, X-OCN uses CBR (Constant Bit Rate) encoding, where the output remains constant regardless of the complexity of the image. It provides consistent picture quality between all frames.

These robust encoding technologies ensure stable image quality, that is crucial especially in high-end content creation including feature film.

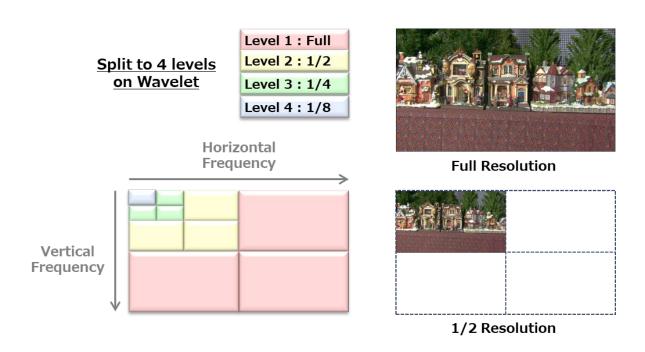
### Easy to work with full third-party support

X-OCN is as easy to work with as Sony RAW, with files that playback in real-time on most laptop computers. You get a choice of tools for viewing, editing, grading and file management.

For additional simplicity, X-OCN uses the same industry-standard OP1a MXF wrapper as Sony RAW, XAVC, SR and MPEG2 formats. Picture, Sound and Metadata are contained within one file wrapper for easy file management.

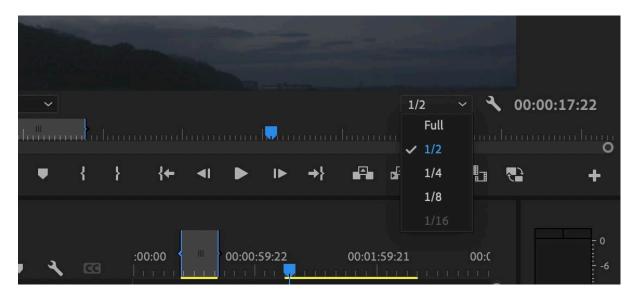
As another benefit, X-OCN adopts a wavelet transform as part of the image compression – that allows to offer great flexibility in viewing performance.

Even if a less powerful laptop computer needs to be used, you can still playback X-OCN clips smoothly in real-time by selecting 1/2 or 1/4 resolution (or even less if supported) on application software – thanks to hierarchical decoding capability.

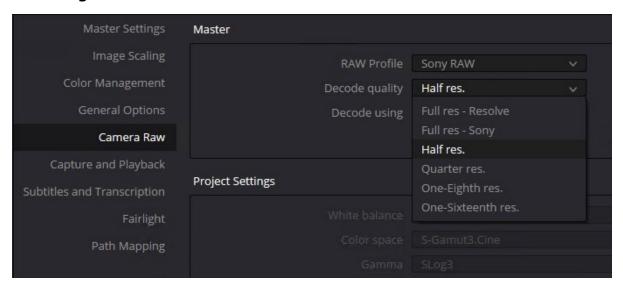


These are examples of decode setting for playback, which are available for Sony X-OCN clips on major third-party application software:

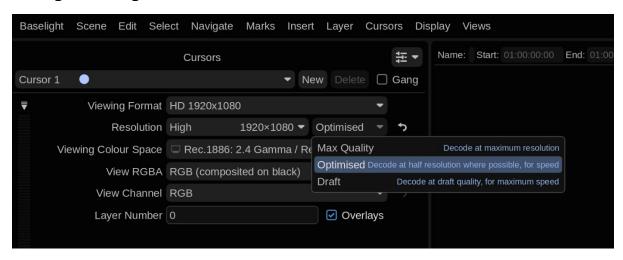
#### **Adobe Premiere Pro:**



#### Blackmagic DaVinci Resolve:



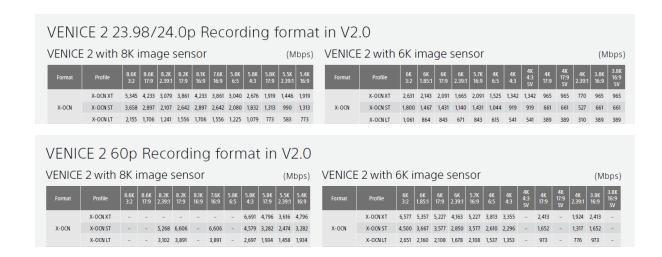
#### Filmlight Baselight:



# X-OCN SPECIFICATIONS (VENICE 2 / BURANO)

- Recording Bitrate
- Recording Time
- FPS in Memory Card

# **Recording Bitrate**



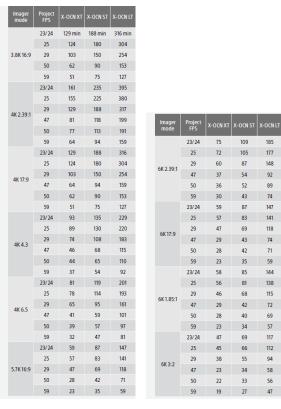
BURANO 23.98p/24.0p Recording format								
Format	Format         Profile         FF 8.6K         FF 8.6K         FFc 6K         FFc 6K         S35 5.8K         S35 5.8K           16:9         17:9         16:9         17:9         16:9         17:9							
X-OCN	X-OCN LT	1,812	1,699	894	838	813	762	385
BURANO 60p Recording format								
BURANO	60p Recor	ding form	at					(Mbps)
Format	60p Recor	rding form  FF 8.6K 16:9	FF 8.6K 17:9	FFc 6K 16:9	FFc 6K 17:9	S35 5.8K 16:9	S35 5.8K 17:9	(Mbps) S35c 4K 17:9

# **Recording Time**

#### VENICE 2 with 8K image sensor (by AXS-1TS66, 1TB memory)

nager node	Project FPS	X-OCN XT	X-OCN ST	X-OCN L
	23/24	65 min	95 min	160 min
	25	62	91	154
5.4K 16:9	29	52	76	128
	50	31	45	77
	59	26	38	64
	23/24	65	95	160
	25	62	91	154
5.8K 17:9	29	52	76	128
5.8K 17:9	47	32	47	80
	50	31	45	77
	59	26	38	64
	23/24	86	126	212
	25	82	121	204
5.5K	29	69	100	170
2.39:1	47	43	63	106
	50	41	60	102
	59	34	50	85
	23/24	41	60	102
5.8K 6:5	25	39	57	98
5.88 6:5	29	33	48	81
	47	20	30	51
	23/24	46	68	115
	25	44	65	111
	29	37	54	92
5.8K 4:3	47	23	34	57
	50	22	32	55
	59	18	27	46

#### **VENICE 2 with 6K image sensor** (by AXS-1TS66, 1TB memory)



<sup>\*</sup>Recording one clip. When several clips are recorded, time should be shorter than the chart.

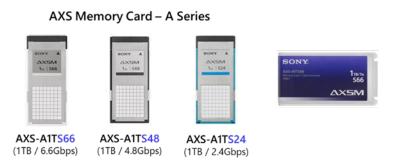
## **BURANO** (by Sony CFexpress Type B VPG400, 960GB memory)

Imager Scan Mode	Frequency	X-OCN LT									
FF 8.6K 17:9	23	74 min	FFc 6K 17:9	23	150	S35 5.8K 17:9	23	165	S35c 4K 17:9	23	323
	24	74		24	150		24	164		24	323
	25	71		25	144		25	158		25	310
	29	59		29	120		29	132		29	259
	50	-		50	72		50	79		50	156
	59	-		59	60		59	66		59	130
FF 8.6K 16:9	23	69	FFc 6K 16:9	23	140	S35 5.8K 16:9	23	154			
	24	-		24	-		24	-			
	25	66		25	135		25	148			
	29	55		29	112		29	124			
	50	-		50	67		50 74				
	59	-		59	56		59	62			

- The recording and playback times are for a continuous recording as a single clip.
- The actual times may be shorter, depending on the number of clips recorded.
- The recording/playback time may vary due to usage conditions and memory characteristics.

## FPS in Memory Card

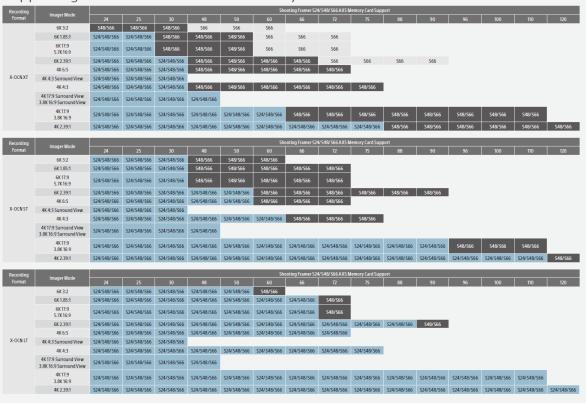
#### **VENICE 2**



AXS Memory Card – A Series have 3 types. The maximum of shooting frame rate varies depending on the speed performance of AXS Memory Card.



#### VENICE 2 with 6K image sensor Supporting format and FPS in AXS memory



#### **BURANO**

#### CFexpress (Type B) Memory Card – CEB-G Series





**CEB-G1920T** (1920GB / VPG400)

**CEB-G960T** (960GB / VPG400)

On this camera, Sony CFexpress (Type B) VPG400 Memory Card is recommended to use – which allows a maximum of shooting frame rate at each imager scan mode.

Recording Format	Imager Scan Mode	Frame Rate
X-OCN LT	FF 8.6K 17:9	1-30
	FF 8.6K 16:9	
	FFc 6K 17:9	1-60
	FFc 6K 16:9	
	S35 5.8K 17:9	
	S35 5.8K 16:9	
	S35c 4K 17:9	1-60, 100, 120

#### Recommended Recording Media

The guaranteed operating conditions will vary depending on the Rec Format and Recording settings.

Yes: Operation supported

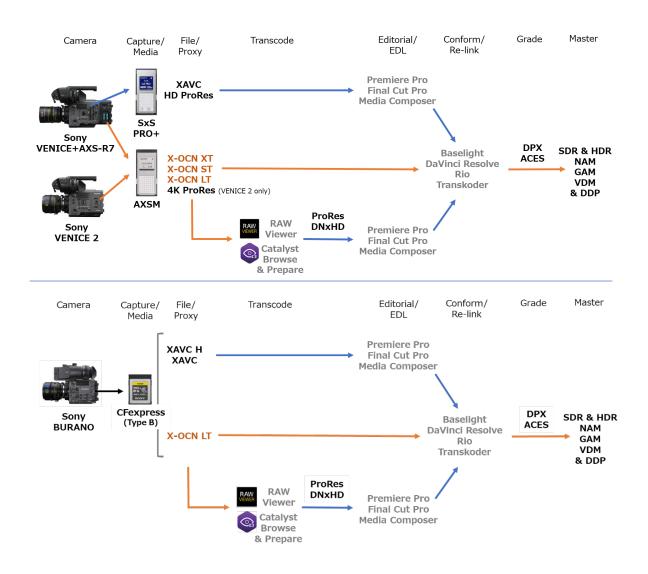
No: Normal operation not guaranteed

CFexpress Type B (exFAT)				
VPG400				
Yes				

# X-OCN WORKFLOW

- Workflow Overview (from Capture to Master)
- Sony RAW Viewer
- Sony RAW SDK
- Full Third-party Support
- Metadata

# Workflow Overview (from Capture to Master)



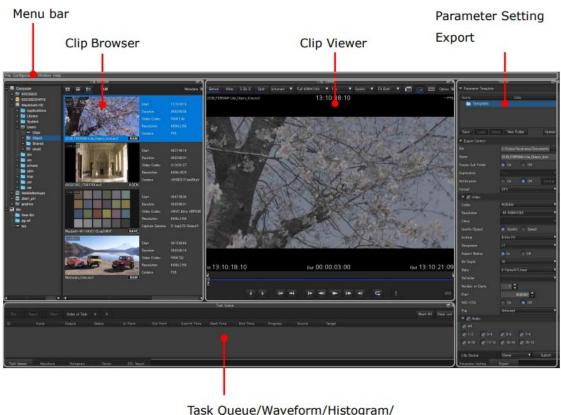


## Sony RAW Viewer

RAW Viewer is free application software that allows you to view RAW, X-OCN and XAVC files recorded with Sony VENICE 2, VENICE, BURANO and other cameras as well as AXS-R7 recorder.

With its intuitive user interface, you can view and perform basic color grading on files transferred to your computer, or files stored on a memory card inserted to AXS-AR3 or other card reader.

In addition, you can also export RAW, X-OCN and XAVC files to DPX, OpenEXR, XAVC or ProRes (only for Mac) format to facilitate file based post-production workflow.



Task Queue/Waveform/Histogram/ Vector/EDL





## Sony RAW SDK

Sony offers a license program to support third-party development for X-OCN format. This program includes supply of technical documents and SDK.

Over 50 third-party companies already take part in this program to support X-OCN on their own products.

For more information, please contact: psg-biz-alliance-agrmnt@sony.com

## Full Third-party Support

X-OCN is supported by leading non-linear editing software and color grading tools such as Adobe Premiere Pro, Avid Media Composer via nablet Sony RAW AMA plugin, Blackmagic DaVinci Resolve, Colorfront OSD and Filmlight Baselight, to name a few.

For more details, please refer to another document:

**X-OCN Supported Products by Alliance Partners** 

#### Metadata

X-OCN is a very easy and flexible format to work with Metadata that reflects the setup of the camera is recorded alongside the image information.

In post-production this metadata is automatically applied to the 16-bit linear recordings so that what you see in the edit or grading suite accurately reflects the way the camera was set. However, in post-production you can override the metadata settings for color temperature, Exposure Index and sharpness etc\* to alter the way the data is processed.

This gives a tremendous degree of flexibility while retaining the exceptional quality of the 16-bit recording.

\*The controls available depends on the software used

The following information is a list of metadata recorded as embedded in X-OCN MXF files, as well as recorded in XML files at the same time on the camera:

#### Table legend

Opt: Included if information is available on a lens attached to the camera (optional)

Yes: Defined

-: Not defined

\*These examples are based on clips shot on VENICE 2

-: Not defined	*These examples are based on clips shot on VENICE 2						
Item	Notation example* in RAW Viewer	X-OCN MX	F	X-OCN XML			
	The state of the s	VENICE 2	BURANO	VENICE 2	BURANO		
Creation Date	2021-10-29 11:04:05	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Last Update	2021-10-30 11:04:05	_	_	Yes	Yes		
UMID	060A2B340101010501010D43130000000 70BF41D2F494EB7A16DD045A68CDF2E	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Start	03:36:29:20	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
End	03:36:32:19	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Duration	00:00:03:00	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Poster Frame		_	_	_	_		
Recording Mode		_	_	Yes	Yes		
Drop Frame	NDF	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Camera	VENICE/CineAltaV	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Video Codec	X-OCN XT	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Resolution	6048x4032	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Aspect Ratio	3:2	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Format FPS	23.98p	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Capture FPS	23.98p	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Pixel Aspect	1:1	-	-	Yes	Yes		
Flip	normal			Yes	Yes		
Embeded 3DLUT	SL3SG3Ctos709.cube	Yes	_	-	-		
Number of Audio Channels	4	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Audio Codec	LPCM	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Audio Bit Depth	24	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Audio Sampling Rate	48000	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Auto Exposure Mode		Yes	Yes				
Exposure Index	Manual Exposure Mode 500	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
	Manual Focus Mode						
Auto Focus Sensing Area Setting  ND Filter Wheel	1/4	Yes Yes	Yes Yes	Yes	Yes		
Image Sensor Dimension Effective Width	35925um	Yes	Yes				
	23950um			_	_		
Image Sensor Dimension Effective Height Image Sensor Readout Mode	ProgressiveFrame	Yes Yes	Yes Yes	Yes	Yes		
		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Shutter Speed Angle	172.50deg	Yes	Yes				
Shutter Speed Time	1/50sec						
Camera Master Gain Adjustment	0.00dB 500	Yes	Yes				
ISO Sensitivity	100%	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Electrical Extender Magnification		Yes	Yes				
Auto White Balance Mode	PresetWhiteBalanceSetup	Yes	Yes				
White Balance	5500 0.00000	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Tint Correction	3.0%	Yes	Yes –	_	_		
Camera Master Black Level							
Capture Gamma Equation	scene-linear	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Gamma for CDL	rec709	Yes		Yes			
Color Primaries (Capture Color Primaries)		_					
Camera Attributes	MPC-36289999999Version5.00	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Effective Marker Aspect Ratio	6048:3202	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
User Frame Line 1	1920×1080+0+0	Yes	Yes		_		
User Frame Line 2	1920×1080+0+0	Yes	_	_	_		
Active Area Aspect Ratio	6048:4032	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Pixel Aspect Ratio	1:1	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Image Orientation	normal	Yes	Yes	_	_		
Raw Black Code	512	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Raw Gray Code	1504	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Raw White Code	5472	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Gamma for Look	s-log3-cine	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Color for Look	s-gamut3-cine	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
					-		

	Notation example* in RAW Viewer	X-OCN MXI	F	X-OCN XML		
Item		VENICE 2	BURANO	VENICE 2	BURANO	
Pre-CDL Transform	LUT:SL3SG3Ctos709.cube	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Post-CDL Transform	none	Yes	-	Yes	-	
Look Process Baked	false	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Monitoring Characteristics	rec709	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Monitoring Base Curve	rec709	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Monitoring Color Primaries	rec709	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Monitoring Coding Equations	rec709	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Monitoring Descriptions	LUT:SL3SG3Ctos709.cube	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Camera Tilt Angle	2.70000	Yes	-	-	-	
Camera Roll Angle	1.30000	Yes	-	-	-	
Focus Distance	2296mm	Opt	_	-	-	
Aperture Value	3.14	Opt	-	_	-	
Aperture Ring T Stop Position	2.8 + 3/10	Opt	_	_	-	
Current Focal Length	0mm	Opt	_	_	_	
Hyperfocal Distance	219224mm	Opt	-	_	-	
Near Focus Distance	2273mm	Opt	_	_	_	
Far Focus Distance	2319mm	Opt	_	_	_	
Horizontal Field of View	27.9deg	Opt	_	_	_	
Entrance Pupil Position	+51mm	Opt	_	_	_	
Normalised Zoom Value	0.000	Opt	_	_	_	
Lens Serial Number	XXXXXXX	Opt	_	_	_	
Iris F-Number	2.87	Opt	Opt	_	_	
Iris T-Number	3.1	Opt	Opt	-	_	
Iris Ring Position		Opt	Opt	_	_	
Focus Position from Image Plane	2.296m	Opt	Opt	-	_	
Focus Ring Position		Opt	Opt	_	_	
Macro Setting	OFF	Opt	Opt	_	-	
Lens Zoom 35mm Still Camera Equivalent	85mm	Opt	Opt	_	-	
Lens Zoom Actual Focal Length	85mm	Opt	Opt	_	-	
Zoom Ring Position		Opt	Opt	_	-	
Anamorphic Lens Squeeze Ratio		Opt	Opt	_	_	
Optical Extender Magnification	100%	Opt	Opt	_	_	
Lens Attributes	XXXXXXXX	Opt	Opt	Opt	Opt	
Cooke /i technology		Opt			_	
Cooke /i2 technology		Opt	-	_	-	
Cooke /i3 technology		Opt	_	_	_	
Zeiss eXtended metadata		Opt	-	_	-	
Description		<u> </u>	_	_	-	
Circle		_	_	_	_	
Project		_	_	_	_	
Director Name		_	_	_	_	
Director of Photography Name		_	_	_	_	
Production		_	_	_	_	
Camera Index		_	_	Yes	Yes	
Reel		_	_	Yes	Yes	
Scene		_	_	-	-	
Cut		_	_	_	_	
Take		_	_	_	_	
Shot		_	_	Yes	Yes	
Mark In		_	_	-	-	
Mark Out		_	_	_	_	

# **CONCLUSION**

X-OCN (Sony's original compressed RAW format) gives you all the benefits of a RAW workflow but without huge file sizes normally associated with uncompressed RAW. It takes everything that the sensor captures and uses a clever encoding process to store that information in a user friendly, compact, 16-bit MXF file.

The 16-bit scene linear files ensure that you are recording every nuance and every subtle texture that the camera can deliver, maximizing your grading and post-production possibilities. At the same time the compact file size delivers a fast and efficient workflow. Transfer times are faster and storage requirements significantly reduced compared to other uncompressed workflows.

X-OCN files are computer friendly, allowing for fast workflows even with modest post-production hardware.