

SONY

For Immediate Release

Sony expands full-frame mirrorless lineup with introduction of new α 7 III camera

Versatile new model combines all the latest imaging technologies into a compact package



- Newly developed full-frame 24.2MPⁱ back-illuminated Exmor R™ CMOS image sensor with evolved image processing
- Wide ISO range of 100 - 51200 (expandable to ISO 50 – 204800 for still images) and 15-Stopⁱⁱ dynamic range at low sensitivities
- World class AF system featuring 693 phase-detection AF points covering 93% of image area, 425 contrast AF points and fast and reliable Eye AF
- Continuous shooting at up to 10 fpsⁱⁱⁱ with either mechanical shutter or silent shooting^{iv} and full Auto Focus/Auto Exposure tracking
- 5-axis optical in-body image stabilisation with a 5.0 step^v shutter speed advantage
- High resolution 4K^{vi} movie shooting with full pixel readout and no pixel binning across full-width of full-frame sensor
- The longest rated battery life of any mirrorless camera^{vii} at 710 shots^{viii} per charge
- Upgraded operability and functionality including addition of joystick for adjusting focus points, dual SD card slots, SuperSpeed USB (USB 3.1 Gen 1) USB Type-C™ Terminal and more

SYDNEY, 27 February 2018 – Sony, a worldwide leader in digital imaging and the world’s largest image sensor manufacturer, has today introduced yet another impressive addition to their full-frame mirrorless camera lineup, the α 7 III (ILCE-7M3).

Sony’s unmatched innovation within the image sensor space is at the forefront of the new α 7 III, as it features a brand new 24.2MPⁱ back-illuminated Exmor R CMOS image sensor with increased sensitivity, outstanding resolution and an impressive 15 stopsⁱⁱ of dynamic range at low sensitivities.

By combining this sensor with a variety of impressive features including extreme AF coverage of 93%, fast shooting at up to 10 fpsⁱⁱⁱ with either mechanical shutter or silent shooting^{iv}, diverse 4K^{vi} video capabilities and more, Sony has created a new tool that gives all types of creators – from enthusiast to professional – the ability to capture content in new and different ways than they ever have before.

“We are continually pushing to deliver more for our customers – more versatility, more functionality and most importantly, more innovation,” said Neal Manowitz, Vice President of Digital Imaging for Sony Electronics. “With the new α 7 III, we’ve taken many of our newest and most advanced imaging technologies from the acclaimed the α 9 and α 7R III models and paired them with an all-new 24.2 MP back-illuminated sensor to deliver the ultimate full-frame camera for enthusiasts, hobbyists and professionals alike. It’s a camera that punches far above its weight class in every capacity. Combined with our impressive selection of 26 native full-frame E-mount lenses, it provides a level of performance that is simply unmatched in the industry.”

Spectacular full-frame image quality

The newly developed 24.2MPⁱ back-illuminated Exmor R CMOS image sensor is paired with a front-end LSI that effectively doubles the readout speed of the image sensor, as well as an updated BIONZ X™ processing-engine that boosts processing speed by approximately 1.8 times compared to the α 7 II. These powerful components work together to allow the camera to shoot at faster speeds while also enabling its impressive ISO range of 100 - 51200 (expandable to ISO 50 – 204800 for still images) and an overall 1.5 stop^{ix} improvement in image quality. The camera also features a massive 15-stopⁱⁱ dynamic range at low sensitivity settings, ensuring outstanding overall performance at all settings and in all shooting conditions, with significant advancements in accurate colour reproductions of skin tones and the vibrant colour of nature.

This new full-frame model can also output 14 bit RAW format^{ix} even in silent and continuous shooting modes, and is equipped with a 5-axis optical image stabilisation system that results in a 5.0 stop^v shutter speed advantage.

Significant advances in AF speed and performance

The innovative new α 7 III full-frame mirrorless camera features a level of AF performance that has been largely improved over the α 7 II, including the addition of 4D FOCUS™ capabilities. The new camera has 425 contrast AF points that work with a 693-point focal-plane phase-detection AF system inherited from the acclaimed α 9 model. This innovative AF system covers approximately 93% of the frame, ensuring reliable focusing and tracking for even the most difficult to capture subjects.

AF response and tracking has also been greatly improved in the new camera, with almost 2xⁱⁱ the focusing speed in low-light condition and 2xⁱⁱ the tracking speed compared to the previous model as a result of the faster image sensor readout. This allows complex and unpredictable motion to be captured with far greater precision and accuracy.

The acclaimed Eye AF feature is also available in the new camera, even in AF-C mode, which is extremely useful for situations where the subject is turning around, looking down or otherwise obstructed. It also works when the α7 III is being used with Sony's A-mount lenses with an optional LA-EA3 adaptor^x. Additional improvements in focusing flexibility include the addition of a multi-selector or 'joystick' for moving focusing points quickly, the addition of touch focusing capability, AF availability in Focus Magnifier mode, an 'AF On' button and much more.

Speed to capture every decisive moment

The new α7 III is equipped with an updated image processing system that allows it to shoot full resolution images at up to 10 fpsⁱⁱⁱ with continuous, accurate AF/AE tracking for up to 177 standard JPEG images, 89 compressed RAW images or 40 uncompressed RAW images^{xi}. This high speed mode is available with either a mechanical shutter or a completely silent shooting^{iv}, adding to the immense flexibility of the camera. The camera can also shoot continuously at up to 8 fpsⁱⁱⁱ in live view mode with minimal lag in the viewfinder or LCD screen.

For added convenience, while large groups of burst images are being written to the memory card, many of the camera's key functions are operable, including access to the 'Fn' (Function) and 'Menu' buttons, image playback and several other menus and parameters including image rating and other functions that facilitate on-location image sorting.

Additionally, if there is fluorescent or artificial lighting present in a shooting environment, users can activate the Anti-flicker^{xii} function to allow the α7 III to automatically detect frequency of the lighting and time the shutter to minimise its effect on images being captured. This minimises any exposure or colour anomalies that can sometimes occur at the top and bottom of images shot at high shutter speeds.

High quality 4K video

The new α7 III is an outstanding video camera as well, offering 4K^{vi} (3840x2160 pixels) video recording across the full width of the full-frame image sensor. In video mode, the camera uses full pixel readout without pixel binning to collect about 2.4x^{xiii} the amount of data required for 4K movies, and then oversamples it to produce high quality 4K footage with exceptional detail and depth.

An HLG (Hybrid Log-Gamma)^{xiv} picture profile is available on the α7 III as well, which supports an instant HDR workflow, allowing HDR (HLG) compatible TV's to playback beautiful, true-to-life 4K HDR imagery. Further, both S-Log2 and S-Log3 are available for increased colour grading flexibility, as well as zebra functionality, gamma display assist and proxy recording. The camera can also record Full HD at 120 fps at up to 100 Mbps^{vi}, allowing footage to be reviewed and eventually edited into 4x or 5x slow motion video files in Full HD resolution with AF tracking.

Upgraded build, design and customisation

Sony's newest full-frame camera is equipped with a variety of enhanced capabilities that were first implemented in the α9 and then again in the α7R III. These include dual media slots, with support in one slot for UHS-II type SD memory cards. Users have a variety of options for storing their content in each of the cards, including separate JPEG / RAW recording, separate still image / movie recording, relay recording and more. Battery life has been greatly extended as well – with a CIPA measurement of up to 710 shots per charge^{viii}, it offers the world's longest^{vii} battery life of any mirrorless camera, as the new camera utilises Sony's Z series battery NP-FZ100 that have approximately 2.2 times the capacity of the W series battery NP-FW50 utilised in the α7 II.

The new camera features "My Menu" functionality which allows up to 30 menu items to be registered for instant recall when needed. Users can also apply star ratings to their still images through the camera controls for easier image playback and review, and edit the first three characters of all still image files. Additionally, there is a total of 81 functions that are assignable to 11 custom buttons, and the camera is both dust and moisture resistant.^{xv}

The α7 III features high-resolution, high-contrast, fast-start XGA OLED Tru-Finder™ with approximately 2.3 million dots for extremely accurate, true-to-life detail reproduction. "Standard" or "High" display quality settings are also available for both the viewfinder and monitor as well. It also is capable of seamlessly transferring files to a smartphone, tablet, computer or FTP server via Wi-Fi®, while also offering a SuperSpeed USB (USB 3.1 Gen 1) USB Type-C™ Terminal for increased flexibility in power supply and faster image transfer speed during tethered shooting.

The α7 III model also comes with Sony's new software suite "Imaging Edge", which extends the creative capabilities of the entire shooting process – from pre-processing to post-processing. "Imaging Edge" provides three PC applications called 'Remote', 'Viewer' and 'Edit', available for free download, which support live-view PC remote shooting and RAW development. In the latest version 1.1, several improvements have been implemented including about 10%^{xvi} faster data transfer speed for remote shooting from PC (PC tether shooting) and about 65%^{xvii} improvement in the response speed for RAW image editing. For more information, please visit Imaging Edge support page. www.sony.net/disoft/d/.

The camera is also compatible with a wide variety of Sony E-mount accessories including the BC-QZ1 Battery Charger^{xviii} and VG-C3EM Vertical Grip.

Pricing and Availability

The Sony α7 III full-frame interchangeable lens camera will be available in Australia late March for SRP \$3,099.

- i Approximate, effective
- ii Sony test conditions
- iii In continuous "Hi+" mode. Max. fps depends on camera settings.
- iv Some distortion may occur with fast-moving subjects.
- v CIPA standards. Pitch/yaw shake only. Planar T* FE 50mm F1.4 ZA lens. Long exposure NR off.
- vi Class 10 or higher SDHC/SDXC card required for XAVC S movie recording, UHS speed class 3 or higher for 100 Mbps recording.
- vii Among non-reflex interchangeable lens digital camera equipped with auto focus function as of February 2017, based on Sony research.
- viii CIPA standards. When using the LCD monitor. 610 images when using the viewfinder.
- ix Limited to 12 bits during compressed RAW continuous shooting, BULB exposure, or when Long Exposure NR is ON.
- x With SSM or SAM lenses only. With the LA-EA3 mount adaptor. Eye AF not supported for movie recording. AF-C can only be used when the "Phase detection" AF system is selected, but focus is fixed at the first frame during continuous shooting in any mode other than "Continuous: Lo" (Hi+, Hi, Mid).
- xi Continuous "Hi+" mode. UHS-II compatible SDXC memory card required. Sony test conditions.
- xii Only 100 Hz and 120 Hz flicker is detected. Continuous shooting speed may decrease. Flicker-free shooting is not available during silent shooting, BULB exposure, or movie recording.
- xiii 24p recording. Approx. 1.6x at 30p.
- xiv Connect to an HDR (HLG) compatible Sony TV via a USB cable to view HDR (HLG) movies.
- xv Not guaranteed to be 100% dust and moisture proof.
- xvi The transfer speed has been measured with multiple images using α7R III, SuperSpeed USB (USB 3.1 Gen 1), and Uncompressed RAW (L: 7952 x 5304) + JPEG Extra fine.
- xvii Measured with: CPU Intel® Core™ i7-6700 Processor 3.40GHz, Memory 8GB, OS Windows® 7 Professional, and Uncompressed RAW (α7R III L: 7952 x 5304)
^{xviii} Not supplied in box

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