

Feature Comparison Notes

- The following feature comparisons were compiled by Digitalis Education Solutions, Inc., and were last updated on February 18, 2008.
- While we believe these feature comparisons provide helpful information, nothing compares to seeing the systems in action before deciding which system best meets your needs. Our See One™ webpage (DigitalisEducation.com/see_one.html) explains how to see our Digitalarium® systems in use. Contact the other manufacturers for information about seeing those systems.
- Prices shown are US prices in US dollars.
- Please independently verify information with vendors and let us know if you find any errors.

Most Affordable High Resolution Portable Digital Planetarium Systems

Seller	Digitalis Education Solutions, Inc.	Learning Technologies, Inc.	E-Planetarium	E-Planetarium
Model	Digitalarium® Gamma	Digital Starlab®	HAL SX-3	Avela Newtonian-1
Website	DigitalisEducation.com	www.starlab.com	www.e-planetarium.com	www.e-planetarium.com
Full dome projection coverage	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Projection technology	Fisheye lens	Fisheye lens	Fisheye lens	Spherical mirror
Resolution	1050 pixel diameter circle	1080 pixel diameter circle	Truncated 1400 x 1050 or 1050 pixel diameter circle	Truncated 1400 x 1050 *
Projection type	DLP	DLP	LCOS	DLP
Base projector brightness (with non-fisheye lens)	6500 lumens	1000 lumens	3500 lumens	3300 lumens
Contrast ratio	2100:1 measured at maximum brightness	12000:1 claimed	1000:1 claimed	2500:1 claimed
Estimated set up time (without dome)	Two minutes	Unknown	Unknown	Ten minutes
User interface	Backlit, handheld remote control anywhere in dome	Laptop	Laptop	Laptop
Planetarium software	Stellarium, open source, Digitalis edition	Starry Night Small Dome, proprietary	Stellarium, open source	Stellarium, open source
Number of stars in database	100,000 +	16,000,000	100,000 +	100,000 +
Scriptable	Yes, including audio and video	No	Yes	Yes
Integrated multimedia viewer	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Seller is developer of system's planetarium software	Yes	No	No	No

Seller	Digitalis Education Solutions, Inc.	Learning Technologies, Inc.	E-Planetarium	E-Planetarium
Model	Digitarium® Gamma	Digital Starlab®	HAL SX-3	Avela Newtonian-1
Seller maintains/updates all system software (planetarium, multimedia, OS)	Yes. Automated software updates are free for life of system.	No	No	No
Free technical support for life of system	Yes	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Lease to own program	Yes	Yes	No	No
Grant writing assistance offered	Yes	Yes	No	No
Warranty period	Two years	One year (three years on laptop)	90 days on fisheye lens; one year on other parts *	One year (two years on DLP projector) **
Return policy	Full refund (less shipping charges) if returned within 30 days of purchase	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Cost of full system	\$41,100 portable, \$39,350 fixed	\$48,500	\$35,310 **	\$13,790 ***
Cost of full portable system and five meter inflatable dome	\$48,580	\$54,000 with standard Starlab dome; \$57,125 with Digital Starlab dome	\$50,000 **	\$30,000 ***
Notes	Labels and menus have been translated into more than 40 languages.	Each square pixel is blurred into more of a circular shape. More detailed comparison: DigitalisEducation.com/faq.html	* Extended warranty may be available with package price. ** See their website for what these prices include.	* A higher resolution system is also available. ** Extended warranty may be available with package price. *** See their website for what these prices include. Pixel sizes, black level, and focus vary across the dome. More detailed comparison: DigitalisEducation.com/faq.html

Moderate Resolution Portable Digital Planetarium Systems

Seller	Digitalis Education Solutions, Inc.	E-Planetarium
Model	Digitarium® Alpha 2	HAL-X2 Omnifocus System
Website	www.DigitalisEducation.com	www.e-planetarium.com
Full dome projection coverage	Yes	No
Projection technology	Fisheye lens	Fisheye lens
Resolution	768 pixel diameter circle	Truncated 1024 x 768
Projection type	DLP	LCD
Base projector brightness (with non-fisheye lens)	3500 lumens	2500 lumens
Contrast ratio	900:1 measured	400:1 claimed
Estimated set up time (without dome)	Two minutes	Ten minutes
User interface	Backlit, handheld remote control from anywhere in dome	Laptop
Planetarium software	Stellarium, open source, Digitalis edition	Stellarium, open source
Number of stars in database	100,000 +	100,000 +
Scriptable	Yes, including audio and video	Yes
Integrated multimedia viewer	Yes	Yes
Seller is a developer of the system's planetarium software	Yes	No
Seller maintains/updates all system software (planetarium, multimedia, etc.)	Yes. Automated software updates are free for life of system.	No
Free technical support for life of system	Yes	Unknown
Lease to own program	Yes	No
Grant writing assistance offered	Yes	No
Warranty period	Two years	90 days on fisheye lens; one year on other parts *
Return policy	Full refund (less shipping charges) if returned within 30 days of purchase	Unknown
Cost of full system	\$19,750 portable; \$18,650 fixed	\$21,110 **
Cost of full portable system & 5m inflatable dome	\$27,230	\$35,000 **
Notes	Labels and menus have been translated into more than 40 languages.	* Extended warranty may be available with package price. ** See their website for what these prices include. Puts more pixels on the dome than the Digitarium Alpha 2 at expense of not projecting a full sky.

Feature Comparison: Digitalium® Alpha 2 vs. Analog Portable Planetarium Systems

Manufacturer	Digitalis Education Solutions, Inc.	Learning Technologies, Inc.	Learning Technologies, Inc.	Astronomia Educativa S.R.L.	Goto Optical Mfg., Inc.
Model	Digitalium® Alpha 2 Portable *	Starlab® FiberArc	Starlab® Standard	CUBEX A-20	NEX
Website	www.DigitalisEducation.com	www.starlab.com	www.starlab.com	www.cubex.com.ar	www.goto.co.jp
Projection type	Digital, DLP	Analog	Analog	Analog	Analog
Control method	Backlit, handheld remote control anywhere in dome	At projector	At projector	At projector	At projector *
Latitude setting	Exact	Estimated, with aid of meridian	Estimated	Estimated	Estimated, w/ aid of numbered dial
Date setting	Exact	Estimated	Estimated	Estimated	Estimated
Diurnal motion	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Annual motion	Yes	No	No	No	No
Moon phases	Automatic	Manual	Manual	Manual	Manual
Show ecliptic	Yes	Series of large dots or with some cylinders	Series of large dots or with some cylinders	With appropriate cube	Yes
Display celestial equator	Yes	Some cylinders	Some cylinders	With appropriate cube	Yes
Planet/moon positioning	Automatic	Manual	Manual	Manual	Manual
Project both hemispheres	Yes	Must switch cylinders	Must switch cylinders	Must change cubes for full coverage	Yes
ID celestial objects	Click on object to ID	DSO cylinder has some codes	DSO cylinder has some codes	No	No
Show constellation outlines	Yes	With some cylinders	With some cylinders	With handheld projector or constellations cube	With included handheld projector
Number of stars projected	100,000 +	3,000 +	3,000 +	2,000 +	1,000 +
Milky Way projection	Yes	Yes	Yes	With country night sky cube	Yes
Images of deep space objects	Yes	No; DSO cylinder shows locations, but no images	No; DSO cylinder shows locations, but no images	No	No
Display cardinal points	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Atmospheric effects	Yes	No	No	No	No
Equatorial/azimuthal grids	Yes	With celestial coordinates cylinder	With celestial coordinates cylinder	With celestial coordinates cube	No
Display sun/stars simultaneously	Yes	Yes, but sun positioned manually and only 12 possible positions	Yes, but sun positioned manually and only 12 possible positions	Yes, but sun positioned manually	Yes, but sun positioned manually with mirror
Integrated multimedia viewer	Yes	No	No	No	No
Cost of full system	\$19,750	\$12,500 (with one starfield cylinder)	\$5,650	\$6,175 (with one starfield cube)	\$3,400
Cost of full system and 5m dome	\$27,230	\$18,950 - \$26,550	\$13,550- \$21,150	\$11,175	Unknown
Notes	* Other models available for fixed domes. See our website for details.	Additional cylinders range from \$300 to \$1,100 each. See our FAQ webpage for a more detailed comparison: Digitaliseducation.com/faq.html	Additional cylinders range from \$300 to \$1,100 each. See our FAQ webpage for a more detailed comparison: Digitaliseducation.com/faq.html	Available in USA from MMI Corporation. Projector can be used with Starlab cylinders.	*Can be attached to computer via USB cable, allowing some functions to be run at computer.