

STEC adds high endurance MLC drive to ZeusIOPS

Flash management technology enables three times more endurance for write-intensive applications

Storage Bytes Now
November 29, 2011

STEC used the venue of the Server Design Summit in Santa Clara to announce a new high-endurance multi-level cell (MLC) version of its ZeusIOPS product line. The XE model with the STEC CellCare feature allows the writing of the entire capacity of the drive 30 times per day for five years.

The 6Gbps Serial Attached SCSI (SAS) drives are available in 300GB and 600GB capacities and support up to 115,000 read IOPS and up to 70,000 write IOPS and 38,000 IOPS for mixed workload 70%/30% Read/Write at 8KB.

The ZeusIOPS XE models are currently being sampled to customers.

Our take: STEC has had the time to develop multiple generations of flash controller technology and the latest high endurance MLC versions indicate the company's ability to guarantee long term functioning MLC even in extremely write-intensive applications. STEC remains one of the pure-play publicly-traded SSD companies with a broad line that includes hard drive form factor and PCIE products, with options for SLC and MLC flash and even DRAM-based systems. STEC was first to garner top tier OEM customers and these relationships tend to endure as long as the supplier continues to advance price and performance.