



*“Once we found iTera HA for i5/OS, high availability became simple. The software does its job efficiently, it’s easy to use, and it provides great peace of mind.”*

Scott Brownscombe, General Manager of Finance  
TDK Australia

## Business Profile

Company name:  
TDK Australia

Headquarters:  
North Sydney, New South Wales,  
Australia

Industry:  
Electronics

Employees:  
30,000

Business Environment:

- Founded about 70 years ago as a niche firm specializing in magnetic materials, now TDK is an electronics giant
- TDK is a household name in Australia and worldwide as a leader in audio, video and data recording solutions
- Products include cassettes, CDs, video tapes, camcorders, speakers, headphones, DVDs, and flash memory cards
- Innovative power based on three core technologies: materials technology, process technology, and circuit design

Vision Solutions Product:  
iTera™ HA for i5/OS®

## Critical Issue

TDK Australia chose to take disaster recovery (DR) and high availability (HA) solutions in house. When the company upgraded to one IBM® System i as the company’s main server, it was clear that any downtime could affect TDK’s ability to service its customers. The company evaluated options for an easy, cost-efficient way to protect their critical IBM System i applications and data.

## Results

- Implementation was simple and straightforward with menu-driven setups.
- Addresses disaster recovery needs.
- Provides 24/7 business continuity.
- Enables recovery from unplanned downtime in minutes rather than hours or days.
- Daily system monitoring takes just minutes.
- Self-correcting capabilities means user intervention is not required to resolve problems.

## Technologies

- iTera™ HA for i5/OS
- Production Machine: IBM® System i Model 800 server
- Remote Backup Server: IBM System i Model 170

## Business Challenge

When Neil Armstrong walked on the moon in July 1969, his famous words “one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind,” were recorded on a TDK DS audio cassette. TDK has taken many visionary leaps in its history, and is recognized today as an electronics giant.

In taking the step to run its HA and DR solutions in house, TDK Australia chose to control its own cost-efficient, 24/7 backup system. In 2004, to accommodate the expanding automation of its business, TDK upgraded to an IBM® System i as the company’s main server. Recognizing that any downtime of this main system could affect the company’s ability to service its customers across Australia, TDK evaluated the DR and HA options available to help them limit exposure.

“In Australia, TDK is a small but high-profile company,” said Scott Brownscombe, General Manager of Finance at TDK. “Like many single System i installations, we thought an in-house DR/HA could be prohibitively expensive and an unnecessary drain on resources. However, after comparing the total cost of ownership (TCO) of various solutions, we found that running an HA solution on a new System i Model 800 with a Model 170 as a backup was not only cost effective, but also guarantees us immediate access in the event of a disaster. An onsite solution puts control in our hands,” Brownscombe explained.



## Solution

TDK Australia turned to its partner Team Computing to suggested an HA solution to meet their needs, according to Harris Kalenderian, IT Manager at TDK.

Peter Sanderson, CEO of Team Computing said that his firm recommended iTera™ HA for i5/OS® from Vision Solutions because they had seen its success at other companies. “iTera HA provides significant cost savings, and we’ve observed its superiority,” said Sanderson.

iTera HA is an easy-to-use and affordable way to protect critical System i applications and data. iTera HA virtually eliminates both planned and unplanned IT downtime with only minutes per day of administration.

The new HA solution was installed on the System i Model 800 main server in the TDK Australia head office, and a Model 170 at the warehouse facility about 19 miles away was designated as the backup server.

“We were pleasantly surprised at how simple and straightforward the installation of iTera HA was,” said Kalenderian. “Training was just as simple, and included setting up our system for replication. The setups were all menu-driven, and were running live on iTera HA immediately afterwards.”

Kalenderian stated that using iTera HA on a day-to-day basis is fast and easy. “We find monitoring a breeze, taking just minutes a day. Because iTera HA is menu-driven, it’s easy to use, and the self-correcting capabilities mean that user intervention isn’t required to fix problems,” he added.



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◆ High Availability ◆ Disaster Recovery ◆ Systems and Data Management ◆