

Section Meetings

Houston, July 22, 1992 — "The New, Improved D-2 Format," was presented by Michael Ellis, Sony Corp. Ellis, a digital video recording specialist, outlined the development of the digital formats, specifically the D-2 format and its establishment as the de facto composite digital format in 1988. He also discussed the basis for the SMPTE accepting the D-2 format.

The DVR-28 recorder now comes equipped with ultrasonic guides that vibrate the tape at 150 kHz, thus reducing friction between the tape and the guides, allowing high-speed shuttle up to 100X and job modes that do not create head or tape wear. Digital sounds can be monitored during all jog modes on any of the four channels. It is possible to zero frame audio edits on one machine. Automatic equalization is developed by a feedback signal providing instantaneous audio correction. The audio is sampled at the rate of 20 bits; video is sampled at 10 bits with AD/DA filtering. The comb filter looks at three test signals and two audio test signals. The recorder has a built-in test feed-through that allows correction of error sig-

nals from equipment following the recorder in the circuit. After the presentation, the attendees were allowed to operate the equipment that was set up for the meeting — Robert Musburger (Secretary/Treasurer), University of Houston.

San Francisco, June 24, 1992 — Television facilities designed to cover the 1992 Winter Olympics were discussed by three representatives of Sony: Peter Ludé, Josef Marc, and Jim Oster. Ludé explained that earlier in the year, one of the world's largest broadcast facilities was built in Sunnyvale, Calif. The unit was then disassembled and shipped to France, where it was reassembled in the French Alps. The International Broadcast Center (IBC) was built to house the facility.

The broadcast system used an innovative combination of NTSC and PAL distribution and was the first Olympics telecast to make heavy use of digital videotape as a prime format. Rare footage and photographs were shown, providing a behind-the-scenes look at the broadcasting

efforts. One problem encountered was that noise was recorded in the video; this was solved by wrapping the microphone in a roll of carpeting. Another videotape showed an exciting drive taken by Jim Oster, who is also a licensed NASCAR driver. The tape showed the car racing down a twisting alpine highway, producing a scene that could have been used in a James Bond film.

The speakers provided an interesting and instructive account of what was a highly complex, demanding project. Following the presentations, there was a question-and-answer period. — Vernon L. Kipping (Chairman), Consultant.



Joseph Marc (left) and Jim Oster (center) discussing a point with Glen Pensinger during the San Francisco Section meeting.

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