

News

The Report of the Task Force on Digital Image Architecture has been adopted by the SMPTE Standards Committee. The report is the result of extensive studies, carried out since the group's formation in early 1991, that have considered the essential requirements of the architecture for future digital image systems. It is essentially a feasibility study that establishes the preliminary basis for the digital image architecture, setting out the issues, examining the possible solutions, and preparing the necessary next steps in the work.

The concepts outlined in the report would result in an architecture for digital images that is open — the modules and interfaces forming the architecture are fully defined and in the public domain and interoperable — images and related equipment may move freely across application and industry boundaries. The hierarchical approach suggested would be scalable, supporting a wide variety of image capabilities; extensible, future-proof to the extent possible; and compatible, supporting current motion-picture, television, and computer standards, where practicable.

The Task Group defined several issues critical to achieving the desired objectives, including selection of a family of image acquisition rates and display refresh rates that may be integer related and that take account of the frame rates commonly used in film, television, and computer displays today; and use of a square sampling grid as a simple and common basis for the expression of images. The report will be published in full in the December issue of the *Journal*.

Kenneth Henry Barratt, chairman of Sony Broadcast and Communications Ltd., has been elected president of the BKSTS. Barratt, who is chairman of Sony Europe's research and development committee, is responsible for HDTV and image processing and is involved in the research and development of digital image processing/manipulation, digital video data-rate reduction, composite video decoding, standards conversion, and digital high-definition studies. His involvement stretches from fundamental research to practical realization.

For the past 16 years, Barratt has provided a unique combination of research and leadership in the development, stan-



dardization, and realization of the digital videotape recorder (DVTR). In 1988 he was listed in an Emmy Award presented to Sony for its development effort in digital video recording; he led the team of engineers who studied many digital signal parameters for the DVTR, resulting in practical demonstrations to both the SMPTE and the European Broadcasting Union.

In addition, he has been an active participant in the worldwide standardization of DVTR and, as such, has been a major contributor to digital recording equipment in service in the major broadcast and post-production houses throughout the world. He has been a member of several SMPTE engineering committees and is a former chairman of the Institution of Electrical Engineers (IEE) Committee for Television and Sound.

Barratt was previously employed by the Independent Broadcasting Authority, Marconi Co., and the British Broadcasting Corp. While at the Independent Broadcasting Authority, he was the project leader for the world's first digital frame-store converter (DICE). When this converter was later developed as a commercial product, it contributed to high-quality program exchange around the world. He is an SMPTE Fellow, an honorary fellow of the BKSTS, a vice-president and member of the Royal Television Society, and a member of the IEE.

The Advanced Television Test Center (ATTC) announced the availability of the Record of Test Results for DigiCipher™ HDTV — the first digital advanced television (ATV) system tested at ATTC under the auspices of the FCC Advisory Committee on Advanced Television Service (ACATS).

The report on DigiCipher™ HDTV — developed by General Instrument Corp. on behalf of the American TeleVision Alliance — represents the second in a series of five reports to be used by the FCC ACATS for comparing the performance of the systems seeking to become the new HDTV broadcast transmission standard for North America.

Technical and subjective test information on DigiCipher™ HDTV includes interference performance, susceptibility to broadcast and cable transmission impairments, image quality, audio assessments, etc., plus General Instrument's own comments on the system's performance.

The cost of the volume is \$400. For an order of five or more sets, the cost is \$350 per volume. Those who order and prepay for this report and the next three digital

systems' reports, at the cost of \$1500, will also receive the two-volume Narrow-MUSE report. For more information, contact ATTC, 1330 Braddock Place, Suite 200, Alexandria, VA 22314-1650.

Consolidated Film Industries has completed and put into operation a new wet-gate printer for the production of 65mm interpositive and 70mm release prints. Manufactured by BHP, Inc., of Chicago, the printer completely immerses the film in a solution at the point of printing contact to produce an especially clean and sharp image on the screen. The printer is capable of handling all 70mm formats, including 5, 8, and 15 perforations/frame.

Panasonic Broadcast & Television Systems Co. announced that A.F. Associates, Inc., and National TeleConsultants have been named as systems integrators for its D-3 1/2-in. digital product line.

A F. Associates will integrate the full line of D-3 products into future systems it designs, while National TeleConsultants will be allowed to integrate the line into future facilities it designs. The D-3 product line includes the AJ-D350 studio VTR, AJ-D310 one-piece digital camera/recorder, AJ-D320 field portable VTR, AQ-20D digital signal processing camera with digital output, and the AQ-225 full-digital studio camera.

The National Computer Graphics Association (NCGA) has expanded its plans for NCGA '93, its 14th annual conference, to be held at the Philadelphia Civic Center in Philadelphia, Pa., April 26 to 29, 1993. The conference, "Computer Graphics Solutions: Applications for Implementation," will feature eight conference application tracks. Presentations will cover CAD/CAM/CAE, Industrial Design, Multimedia, Visual Communications, Mapping and GIS, Graphic Arts and Design, Architecture/Engineering/Construction, and Printing and Publishing.

NCGA will also present its own conference track dedicated to the concept of information integration, the process of effectively and efficiently managing information throughout the life cycle of a product, addressing issues and concerns common to all of the other dedicated tracks and focusing on some of the problems that have arisen from the 1990's phenomenon known as "information overload."

The conference will feature 150 exhibitors, 80 tutorials and technical hands-on sessions, panel discussions, a keynote address, product demonstrations, and educational programs and presentations. For more information, contact NCGA, 2722 Merrilee Dr., Suite 200, Fairfax, VA 22031.