

Engineering News

Summary Report of Meetings of CCIR Study Group 11

Meetings of the Working Parties and Task Groups of CCIR Study Group (SG) 11 (Television Broadcasting) took place in Geneva, November 11-27, 1991, to prepare work for the Study Group interim meeting, May 11-15, 1992. Since this was the first occasion for most participants to work under the new procedures adopted at the XVII Plenary Assembly (Dusseldorf), part of the meeting was devoted to housekeeping matters, such as a thorough review of questions, work assignments, and procedures. However, valuable progress can be seen in the outputs from the meeting: 32 new draft recommendations and 13 draft revisions to recommendations throughout the range of TV activity in the CCIR. Associated meetings of Study Groups 10 (Sound Broadcasting), JWP-11/2 (Satellite Broadcasting), and the CMTT (Distribution) made similar progress.

Noteworthy developments from the meetings were:

1. It was recognized that consideration of the digital coding of TV pictures must take into account a wide range of quality levels (including HDTV), aspect ratios, and applications/services. SG 11 work is now based on this concept and a "coding summit" meeting is scheduled for May 1992 between SG 11 and the CMTT, SG 10, JWP-10-11/S, with IWP 11/9 including ISO, IEC, and CCITT.

2. Broadcasting of TV over digitally modulated terrestrial channels (VHF/UHF) is now an urgent concern in SG 11. CCIR has a leadership role to play here, as terrestrial broadcasting has great influence in the development of digital TV services. A specialized Task Group (TG 11/3) is being formed, with past SMPTE Engineering Vice-President Stan Baron, NBC, serving as chairman. The Task Group will develop recommendations for 6-MHz channels by 1996, and for 7/8-MHz channels by 1998. The basic work will be supported by the other working parties of the Study Group.

3. There is much interest in WP 11-D, regarding the development of OSI models for digital broadcasting and the creation of a formal description (and possible future recommendation) for integrated services, digital broadcasting (ISDB) concepts, which will be a major step towards new flexibility in broadcast services.

4. Significant progress was made in updating Rec. 500, concerning subjective assessments of TV pictures, towards a statistical failure characteristic model that is better suited for assessments of adaptive

digital codecs than the current quality/impairment approach, which is better geared to linear analog coding.

5. Contributions to the meeting noted that analog HDTV standards are now mature, as related equipment and systems become commodity items, and future progress towards a worldwide commonality must await more sophisticated digital coding architectures. Thus a new Annex 2 to Rec. 709 was created, providing specific guidelines on the use of this Recommendation in 1126/60/2:1 and 1250/50/2:1 applications. The U.S. noted its disagreement with this action in a footnote.

Preliminary discussions regarding the use of bit rate reduction in a studio environment resulted in the appointment of a Special Rapporteur to consolidate information on this subject, with plans to prepare a draft Recommendation for the next meeting.

6. Digital interfaces for conventional television are now fully reflected in CCIR documents at the 4:2:2 and 4:4:4 level in both serial and parallel formats. Interfaces for digital HDTV formats are nearing completion. Recommendations concerning ancillary data and video index are pending, awaiting contributions from organizations such as the SMPTE and EBU on some practical details.

The meeting of SG 11 in May 1992 will examine this work and is expected to approve many of the recommendations for adoption by the CCIR.

Kenneth P. Davies
Engineering Vice-President

Committee Information

SMPTE Engineering Committees meet to develop standards, practices, and engineering guidelines and to review existing documents to ensure that they are current with established practices and are compatible with international standards.

Membership is open to those who have affirmed in writing that they are directly and/or materially affected and are willing and able to participate actively in the work. Individuals interested in contributing to committee work should contact the SMPTE Engineering Dept.

SMPTE Monthly Engineering Meeting Schedule

The calendar below shows the dates and times of upcoming meetings and the cities where they will be held. Those requesting additional information on participation in these meetings should contact the Engineering Dept. at SMPTE Headquarters, (914) 761-1100.

March				
2	9:00 a.m.	WG on DTTR Format		Sony Products
Mon.	5:00 p.m.	Applications		Montvale, N. J.
		V16.03	(H. Mahler)	
2	1:00 p.m.	TV Rec. and Repro.		Sony Products
Mon.		Technology		Montvale, N. J.
	5:00 p.m.	V16	(T. Cavanagh)	
3	9:00 a.m.	WG on 1/2-in. Digital Format		Sony Products
Tues.	5:00 p.m.	V16.05	(K. Sadashige)	Montvale, N. J.
3	9:00 a.m.	S17 Subgroups		Sony Products
Tues.	5:00 p.m.	(TBA)		Montvale, N. J.
4	9:00 a.m.	WG on Time and Control		Sony Products
Wed.		Codes		Montvale, N. J.
	12:00 noon	P18.25	(S. Vigneaux)	
4	1:00 p.m.	WG on Digital Control		Sony Products
Wed.	5:00 p.m.	P18.10	(T. Staros)	Montvale, N. J.
4	9:00 a.m.	S17 Subgroups		Sony Products
Wed.	5:00 p.m.	(TBA)		Montvale, N. J.
5	9:00 a.m.	TV Production Technology		Sony Products
Thurs.	1:00 p.m.	P18	(M. Weiss)	Montvale, N. J.
5	9:00 a.m.	S17 Subgroups		Sony Products
Thurs.	5:00 p.m.	(TBA)		Montvale, N. J.
6	9:00 a.m.	TV Signal Technology		Sony Products
Fri.	1:00 p.m.	S17	(M. Weiss)	Montvale, N. J.