

Section Meetings



Jonathan Pannaman, Quantel, demonstrating the HAL digital compositor during the Houston Section's October meeting.

Houston, October 21, 1992 — HAL, the latest digital compositor from Quantel, was the subject of the October meeting. Jonathan Pannaman, Quantel, discussed the history of digital equipment and traced the pattern of how digital equipment has been used in post-production operations, showing how a single HAL can replace an infinite number of tape decks, still store, character generator, paint box, chroma keyer, switcher, DVE, and audio editing equipment.

Brenda Sexton, Quantel, demonstrated the product's power while simultaneously describing to the audience what she could do with the equipment. The product's two 850-Mbyte discs do not have to be compacted, yet they are designed to maximize their space. Only one processor is required to build up 99 layers of a production. Dissolves and other effects can be accomplished quickly and easily within HAL's proprietary software.

The equipment offers true random access in any order in real time without using additional disc space. In addition, the unit offers true serial 601 inputs and a variety of other input and output formats. The product can be operated from a keyboard, tablet, or rat (a mouse without a ball). Guests and members were invited to operate the equipment at the conclusion of the demonstration. — Robert Musburger (Secretary/Treasurer), University of Houston.

Montreal, October 27, 1992 — Pierre Perrier, Post-Production Supersuite, gave explanations of the Utah Scientific AVS-1B. The 48-person audience was very interested in learning about the 8-level routing switcher and its flexibility in configuring all the equipment to be shared between the Supersuite's three editing rooms. Perrier gave information on how he used the routing facilities to send the time code from Track 3 to be laid down on

Track 2, without disconnecting the normal time code on Track 3 during the routing. After his presentation, the attendees visited the company's master control room and saw the routing switcher in operation.

During the second part of the evening, Denis Mondion showed Canadian singer Rock Voisine's video clip. The challenge for Mondion was to give a "film look" to the video sequences. Using the 3/2 pull-down technology and his talent, he showed the audience different applications of film look with video. Two videos were presented to the audience, which included film grain and scratches on the video clips. — Jacques LaChapelle (Chairman), Centre de Montage Electronique.

New England, September 30, 1992 — The meeting, which was held in conjunction with the Boston Chapter of SBE, was attended by 75 people. The event took place at the newly created studios of WFXT-TV, Fox 25.

During the meeting Chris Taylor, BTS,

gave a technical update on the recent developments by Philips Laboratories in creating a VHF/UHF broadcast television ghost canceling reference signal (GCRS).

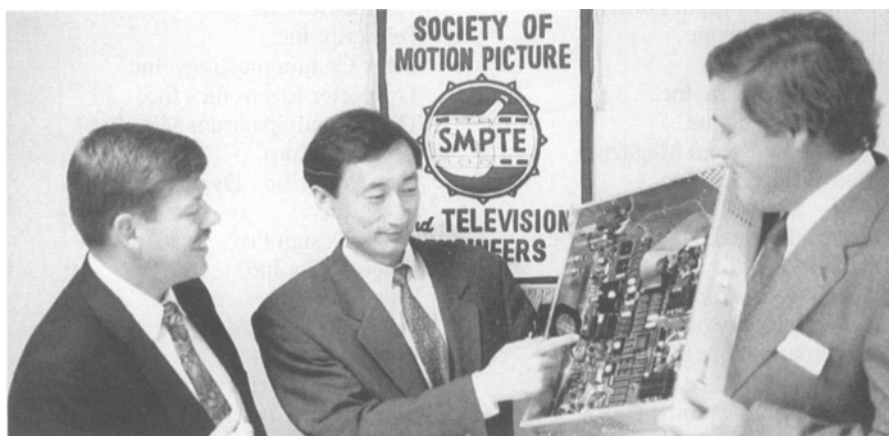
The keynote presentation was given by David Koo, Philips Laboratories, who described in detail the background of GCRS. Koo, who was one of the chief scientists responsible for the development of this emerging technology, also discussed the recent acceptance by the ATSC of the Philips-proposed GCRS, which will be used in the NTSC vertical blanking interval, on Line 19. Philips is currently awaiting formal FCC approval for this system. Koo provided an example of an actual signal generator and reference signal insertion for hands-on inspection and discussion.

The meeting concluded with a full facility tour of the WFXT studios, led by Gunner Reiger and Edward Avaro, followed by light refreshments. — Paul R. Beck (Secretary/Treasurer), Emerson College.

New York, September 23, 1992 — Over 125 people attended the September meeting, which covered the subject of "Film and Video Projection in a Large Multipurpose Performing Arts Facility — Radio City Music Hall." The original, illustrated paper, which was prepared especially for the meeting, was presented by Robert Endres, head projectionist.

The "Showplace of the Nation," since its opening in 1932, has occupied a unique niche in the entertainment industry as a presenter of both filmed and live entertainment. As one of the largest enclosed facilities, its size creates some unique challenges for film and video projection, which in many instances is integrated into live stage performances.

The hall's original design as a vaudeville venue included a completely equipped movie projection booth behind the stage, which was intended for short films as fillers in the stage show and for



SMPTE New England Section Chairman Edward Dextraze (left) listening as David Koo (center) discusses the new GCRS. At right is Chris Taylor, BTS, holding the prototype test signal generator.

projection of film effects. When the vaudeville policy proved unsuccessful, RKO adopted a movie-stage policy and a projection booth was then integrated into the spotlight gallery above the third mezzanine, resulting in a 19° downward projection angle.

This "Geometry of Destiny" situation combined with a 35 X 70-ft screen dictated many technical decisions regarding screen material, screen curvature, lamp houses, light sources, lenses, sound advance, stereo sound, speaker placement, masking controls, and the limiting factors regarding which films could be presented successfully, for example those in 3-D. This was but one phase of many cited by Endres regarding the interaction of technical, physical, and historical factors.

"Living Screen" effects, video projection for both the large screen as well as video images integrated into stage scenery, video walls, and many other technical processes were described, and a number of unique pieces of equipment were demonstrated.

The program was preceded by a tour that took registrants behind the scenes at

Radio City Music Hall. The tour ended up in the large rehearsal hall, where a Rockette spoke about the design of the rehearsal space as it relates to the stage, as well as the history of the hall.

The SMPTE 35mm projector alignment test film, commonly known as RP 40, was described by the test materials advisor. It was emphasized that in Radio City Music Hall, with a projection throw of 185 ft at a 19° downward angle and a magnification of 570, even minute mechanical problems in the projector can show up as large aberrations on the screen. — Ed Schuller (Manager and Test Materials Advisor), Entertainment Video Systems.

Rochester, October 13, 1992 — Jerry Toms of Digital Design Solutions described and demonstrated the NewTek Video Toaster. This high-end computer-based video workstation is based on seven custom chips, 350,000 lines of assembly-language software, and Amiga hardware, and provides a wide range of video production options in an inexpensive desk-top unit. The meeting was attended by 20 people. — Alan J. Masson (Secretary/Treasurer), Eastman Kodak Co.

Sacramento, October 21, 1992 — Seventy-one members and guests heard an entertaining and informative presentation by Charles Jablonski, NBC Engineering, who described the Barcelona Olympic Games from a behind-the-scenes perspective. Jablonski also gave a financial discussion of the costs involved in acquiring the rights to the games, as well as the production and engineering costs. Comparisons were made, which showed the enormous escalation in rights costs. Unexpected engineering challenges were described, including the need to provide a stable source of mains power for the NBC Broadcast Center because of the unreliability of local power, the need to "turn around" recorded and edited segments in a short time frame, and the complexity of transmitting not only the regular NBC network feed, but also the pay-per-view "Triplecast." Jablonski illustrated his presentation with a series of slides, including a number of tongue-in-cheek pictures of Olympic events, engineering personnel, and venues. — Edward Hobson (Secretary/Treasurer), Grass Valley Group.

News

Grass Valley Group (GVG) and Panasonic Broadcast & Television Systems Co. announced an agreement that will enable GVG's U.S. sales organization to sell Panasonic D-3 composite digital recording systems as part of GVG system packages. The sales agreement, which was announced jointly by officials of both companies during the 134th SMPTE Technical Conference and Equipment Exhibit, allows both companies to more completely meet the needs of customers moving towards an all-digital environment.

Otari Corp. has announced the formation of a new corporate division. The manufacturing facilities of King Instruments, Division of Otari, Inc., and Otari Console Products Group (formerly Sound Workshop) have been merged to become Otari Manufacturing Corp. (OMC). All manufacturing operations in the U.S. will fall under this new organization, which will be the worldwide source for Otari-brand audio mixing consoles, automation systems, and audiocassette loaders.

Hollywood Digital, the industry's latest all-digital post-production facility, is currently being constructed in Hollywood, Calif. The 33,000 sq. ft. facility will open

in February 1993. Over \$12 million is being invested in the facility, which has been designed to provide services for a broad clientele, including film and tape-based television productions, commercials, promos, music videos, feature films, and corporate productions.

Abekas Video Systems announced it is entering into an OEM agreement with Di-Tech, Inc. Di-Tech, a manufacturer of routing systems, has agreed to provide routers such as Abekas A51 Digital Special Effects System source selectors. The routers will be available in component or composite format, and will be pre-configured for A51 applications. For more information, contact Abekas Video Systems, 101 Galveston Dr., Redwood City, CA 94063.

The 6th Annual International Teleproduction Society (ITS) Forum and Exhibition will take place July 8 to 12, 1993, at the Beverly Hilton Hotel in Los Angeles, Calif. The ITS International Monitor Awards, which are scheduled for Saturday, July 10, will also take place at the Hilton. For more information, contact Joselle Communications, Inc., 185 West End Ave., Suite 22C, New York, NY 10023-5539.

The 94th AES Convention will take place March 16 to 19, 1993, at the International Congress Centre in Berlin, Germany. Approximately 7000 registrants and 300 exhibitors are expected to attend the event, which will feature technical presentations, specialist lectures, and workshops on professional audio technology. During the convention, a function commemorating the 50th anniversary of the first stereo radio recordings will be held in cooperation with the Broadcasting Centre Sender Freis Berlin (SFB). At this event, tape recordings of the former Reichsrundfunkgesellschaft (RRG), which were recently discovered in Moscow, can be listened to in the same studio where they were once recorded. For more information, contact AES Convention Services, 60 E. 42nd St., Suite 2520, New York, NY 10165.

APRS 93, an exhibition for the professional audio and sound recording industry, will be held from June 23 to 25, 1993, at Olympia 2, in London. The event, entitled "The One Show," combines products, systems, and services for recording, sound broadcasting, post-production, and sound reinforcement from virtually all of the leading suppliers to the European market. For more information, contact the Conference Organizer, Association of Professional Recording Services (APRS), 2 Windsor Sq., Silver St., Reading, Berk. RG1 2TH, England.