

SMPTE Presented with Emmy Award for Outstanding Achievement in Technological Development

The SMPTE was presented with an Engineering Award for Outstanding Achievement in Technological Development by the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences (NATAS).

This Emmy Award — the third that the Society has received — honors the development of the "In Plant Digital Serial Interconnection for Television," which is a series of standards and recommended practices that describe the serial connection of digital television signals within the plant.

The award was accepted on behalf of the Society by SMPTE Engineering Vice-President Ken Davies, Canadian Broadcasting Corp., during ceremonies held in New York City on October 5. The award-winning procedure was originally implemented by the Committee on Television Technology, chaired by S. Merrill Weiss, NBC, and the Working Group on Studio Video Systems, chaired by Peter Symes, Grass Valley Group. The working group has now been reorganized into the Committee on Television Signal Technology.

Upon accepting the award, Davies said, "For the SMPTE this is a very significant occasion, marking the third time that the Society has been honored with an Emmy for an aspect of its pioneering work in bringing the benefits of digital video to practical use in the production studio. We are most grateful to be so recognized, as the engineering efforts of the Society go back a long way in this area, beginning with the studies in the mid-70s led by the late Charles Ginsburg, continued under the leadership of Stan Baron, Bob Hopkins, Merrill Weiss, and even myself, and supported by many experts from around the world. They recognized the importance of this new form of television long before most thought it even possible. Today it is taken for granted, taken as the everyday norm, and in so doing it has added marvelous new possibilities and opportunities for innovation in the production of programming.

"The key element in this process of adoption was, to my mind, the development of a practicable way to move the digital signals around the studio. The answer is clearly a serial transmission format and interfacing serial digital video for both our beloved NTSC and the upstart components, and also strongly influencing HDTV; the whole embodied in one masterful document, SMPTE 259M, by a hard-working group chaired by my very good friend Peter Symes, now at the Grass Valley Group, but a partner in crime for me starting well before that. They succeeded in taking digital video from the technologists and putting it in the hands of the programmers to make better television for all to see. The results in equipment are visible everywhere you look.

"On behalf of the SMPTE, I thank

the Academy for this special honor, and in so doing, may I thank all those who have contributed to this work and also to the continuing work leading to the future of our great industry. To my friend and longtime collaborator, Peter Symes, may I offer here congratulations and gratitude for a challenging job carried out in an exemplary fashion. Thank you all."

The Society previously received Emmy Awards in 1983 for the development of the 4:2:2 digital component video standards and in 1986 for the development of the D-1 recording system standards.

During the ceremonies, several SMPTE Sustaining Members were also recognized by NATAS, including Avid Technologies, Matsushita Electric Co. Ltd. (Panasonic), Sony, and Tektronix. — Carol King



Engineering Vice-President Ken Davies (R), who accepted the Emmy Award on behalf of the SMPTE, and Peter Symes, chairman of the Working Group on Studio Video Systems.