

Engineering News

Report of Meeting of IEC Technical Committee 60 — Rotterdam, The Netherlands

IEC Technical Committee 60 — Recording, and its subcommittees, SC 60A — Sound Recording and SC 60B — Video Recording, met in Rotterdam, The Netherlands, from October 4 to October 9, 1992. Several U.S. delegates attended the SC 60B meetings: Koichi Sadashige, Richard Wilkinson, Charles Spicer, and Frederick Remley. Sadashige is secretary of Working Group 7 — Broadcast Recorders. Wilkinson is active in the subgroup of Working Group 5 — Nonbroadcast Recorders, which deals with videodisk systems. Spicer attended WG 7 meetings and the SC 60B and TC 60 meetings. Overall attendance was about 41 persons, with about half of the delegates coming from Japan and other delegates sent by the National Committees of Germany, Austria, France, the U.K., Belgium, and The Netherlands. Most delegates attended the SC 60B meetings; the SC 60A agenda is quite short at the moment. The IEC Central Office provided the services of Derek Mullen, staff engineer.

TC 60 has met on a regular basis since 1969. This meeting was held as part of a series of meetings associated with the 56th IEC General Meeting, and was the first time that TC 60 met in conjunction with the general meeting. The facilities of the Rotterdam World Trade Center were overtaxed and, partly as a result of this, TC-60 formally decided not to meet again at the time of the IEC General Meeting, but rather to meet at times and locations chosen independently by the TC 60 Secretariat.

In terms of organization, TC 60 has a new secretary, M. Kano of EIAJ, Japan, while H. Zahn of Germany has held the office of chairman for several years. W. Andriessen of Germany is chairman of SC 60A. F. Remley, U.S., is chairman of SC 60B. Mr. Kano has organized the work of TC 60 very thoroughly and efficiently. The meetings at Rotterdam proceeded in an effective manner.

For several years TC 60 has moved to change its method of working and document preparation away from standing committees (working groups) toward smaller project groups. Membership in project groups is to consist of a project leader (PL) identified by a national committee to be a member of TC 60 and appointed as PL by the TC or an SC. The PL is to assemble a group of experts (selected by him/her from any national committees) to work on a specifically

designated project and to adjourn the project group when the project is finished. SC 60A completed this transition at its 1991 meeting held in Singapore, and SC 60B completed the conversion of its agenda to projects during the 1992 Rotterdam meeting.

During the Rotterdam meetings a Joint Study Group for Advanced Television, JSG-1, was proposed following a series of discussions between delegates of TC 60, SC 60B, TC 12A (Television Receivers) and TC 84 (Audio and Video Engineering, chaired by T. Holman, U.S.). Forming such a coordinating group is a constructive idea but raises a number of organizational questions. Some of them are similar to the questions that IEC/ISO Joint Technical Committee -1 (JTC-1) has encountered (and apparently overcome) in coordinating work involving computer systems, and we will hear more on this matter in the future as the IEC works to improve liaison with other international standards organizations.

TC 84 and TC 60 have requested formal liaison with the AES and are in the process of doing the same for SMPTE. The work of SC 60B proceeded well, as noted here:

- Working Group 7 completed its work on revised drafts for MII, D-2, and D-3 documents; F. Morrison (Ampex Corp.) attended one meeting to put the finishing touches on the D-2 format work. The IEC D-1 document, which is obsolete, was not revised because the U.S. (SMPTE) was unable to prepare a revised draft in time for the meeting. HDTV recording is to be on future agendas.

- Working Group 5 finished work on calibration tapes for nonbroadcast tape machines, methods of measurements for camera/recorders, and on the final draft of the 8mm VCR document. In addition, a subgroup of WG-5 worked on updating the existing IEC laser videodisk documents.

- Working Group 3 completed several documents involving measurements of recorder systems. Most existing measurement documents are for analog composite systems, but work was done to include analog component systems. Work has begun, as well, to define measurement techniques for digital video systems, both composite and component. HDTV systems will be examined in the future.

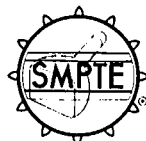
— Frederick M. Remley, Chairman

Binders for SMPTE-sponsored American National Standards and SMPTE Recommended Practices

for convenience in assembling and storing your file of Standards and Recommended Practices.

Order these high-quality, durable leatherette ring binders, from SMPTE Headquarters. Available in 1½-inch size only.

Postage and Handling included: USA—\$19.00 each; Mexico and Canada—\$22.00 each; Overseas—\$36.00 each.



Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers

595 West Hartsdale Ave., White Plains, N.Y. 10607

