

# Engineering News

## New Technical Committee Formed: IEC/TC 100 Audio, Video and Multimedia Systems and Equipment

The International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) formed a new Technical Committee, IEC/TC 100, Video, Audio and Multimedia Systems and Equipment, at a series of meetings held in The Hague, The Netherlands, November 12 to 17, 1995. Also formed were several Subcommittees: SC 100A, Receiving Equipment; SC 100B, Recording; SC 100C, Equipment and Systems in the Field of Audio, Video and Audiovisual Engineering; and SC 100D, Cable Systems.

The new TC 100 was created by merging several existing IEC Technical Committees and Subcommittees, including SC 12A, TC 60, SC 60A, SC 60B, and TC 84. SC 60B, Video Recording, had been chaired by Frederick C. Remley for many years; Mark Hyman, SMPTE Staff Engineer, served as its technical advisor. SMPTE had administered the U.S. Technical Advisory Group (USTAG) for the U.S. National Committee (USNC) and the American National Standards Institute (ANSI). Carlos V. Girod, Jr., SMPTE Director of Engineering, represented the USNC/ANSI at the meetings in The Hague.

## SMPTE to Serve as USTAG Administrator and Technical Advisor to SC 100B, Recording

Moving forward, SMPTE will administer the USTAG for new SC 100B, Recording. Mark Hyman will serve as the technical advisor for the video areas with Delos Eilers of 3M Company serving as the technical advisor for the audio areas. The Electronic Industries Association (EIA) will administer the USTAG for new TC 100; Jim Romlein of MIS Labs will serve as the technical advisor.

The new structure is as follows:

### TC 100 - Video, Audio and Multimedia Systems and Equipment

AGS - Advisory Group on Strategy

AWG - Advisory Working Group

WG 1 - (continuation of JET 1 of TC 60) -  
Editing Group for Terminology

WG 2 - (continuation of JWG 1 of TC  
84) - Basic Standards for Audio, Video and  
Audiovisual Digital Equipment

SC 100A - Receiving Equipment

SC 100B - Recording - *Chair:* H. Zahn  
(Germany); *Secretaries:* A. Shibata and  
T. Mifune (Japan)

WG 1 - Recording on Disks -  
*Convener:* A. Gall (The Netherlands)

WG 2 - Recording on Magnetic Tapes  
for Broadcasting Applications - *Convener:*  
K. Sadashige (U.S.)

WG 3 - Recording on Magnetic Tapes  
for Consumer Applications - *Convener:* Y.  
Nakamura (Japan)

SC 100C - Equipment and Systems in the  
Field of Audio, Video and Audiovisual  
Engineering - *Chair:* T. Holman (U.S.)

SC 100D - Cable Systems

The scope of work for TC 100 includes  
standardization in the field of video, audio  
and multimedia systems and equipment  
especially in the following areas of interest:

- The optimum "end-to-end" quality of recording and reproduction of audio, video, and data signals in the user (consumer and professional) environment.
- Selection of appropriate information from media and access to media and data.
- Implementation of access management and control.
- Interfaces, interconnections, interoperability between systems.
- Human factors.
- Test and measuring methods.

The activities are manifested in preparing documents relating to:

- Receivers of all kinds of services — radio and television receivers in particular.
- Displays and equipment used as display terminals.
- Magnetic, optical, and solid-state storage equipment, including the data carriers.
- Interfaces between systems, equipment and human beings, including system control and access management, control of signal distribution and interoperability requirements to ensure transparency of the signal reproduction chain.
- Signal pickup and reproduction devices and equipment.
- Performance criteria for systems and equipment, together, based on essential measuring methods.
- Terms and definitions in audio, video, and multimedia technology in consumer and professional applications.

Participating members include: Austria, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, The Netherlands, Romania, Slovakia, South Africa, the U.K., and the U.S. Observing members include: Belgium, Egypt, Norway, Portugal, Spain, and Sweden.

SMPTE is looking forward to its expanded role in this new activity. Please address any comments or questions to Mark Hyman at SMPTE Headquarters (e-mail: staffeng@smpte.org) or Carl Girod (e-mail: eng@smpte.org).

## IEC — What is it?

The International Electrotechnical Commission, founded in 1906, now comprises some 50 national electrotechnical committees which collectively represent some 85% of the world's population and 95% of the world's electrical generating capacity. The work of the IEC is done through 200 technical committees and subcommittees and about 700 working groups, each developing standards on the safety, performance, construction, and installation of electrical equipment and services for specific, well-defined product sectors. More than 3,000 international electrotechnical standards, in English and French, are listed in the IEC catalog of publications.

The IEC does not, of course, work independently of other international bodies. While the IEC concentrates on standards in the electrical and electronic fields, including some areas of telecommunications, the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) is concerned with technical standards covering a diverse range of other subjects. The organizations work closely together, particularly in a joint committee developing international standards in the information technology field.

Close relations are also maintained with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization (CENELEC), and many other organizations which produce standards, codes of practice, and rules for specific disciplines.

The IEC enjoys links with other bodies in non-electrotechnical areas, examples being the World Health Organization, the International Labour Office, the International Organization of Legal Metrology, and the International Atomic Energy Agency.

One of the fundamental goals of the IEC is to bring into use a coherent and common set of electrotechnical standards worldwide. The benefits are two-fold: Adoption of IEC standards by manufacturers removes barriers to international trade in electrical and electronic equipment, and specification of IEC standards by users ensures that they have a common and valid base for examining and comparing competing products. A measure of the success in meeting this goal is the fact that more than 100 countries now voluntarily adopt IEC standards as the basis of their national rules and standards. Many have adopted them without change.

The American National Standards Institute, through its U.S. National Committee, is the member of IEC for the U.S. IEC Headquarters is located in Geneva, Switzerland; ANSI Headquarters is in New York City.

— Carlos V. Girod, Jr., P.E.