

News



Ray M. Dolby

Ray Dolby Receives Nation's Highest Technology Honor

Ray Dolby, founder and chairman of Dolby Laboratories, Inc., San Francisco, Calif., has been named by President Clinton as one of the 1997 recipients of the National Medal of Technology, the nation's highest technology honor. The award is presented "for inventing technologies that have dramatically improved the recording and reproduction of sound, fostering their adoption worldwide, and propagating a vision of how innovative audio processing technologies could enable new formats for recording and listening."

Dolby began his career at Ampex Corp., where he was mainly responsible for the development of the electronic aspects of the Ampex videotape recording system. After

graduating from Stanford University with a B.Sc. in electrical engineering, Dolby left Ampex in 1957 for Cambridge University, where he earned his Ph.D. in physics and was elected a fellow of Pembroke College. Following a two-year appointment as a U.N. advisor in India, Dolby returned to England in 1965 to establish Dolby Laboratories in London; the company moved its headquarters to San Francisco in 1976. Dolby noise reduction has affected almost all facets of professional audio technologies, including cinema stereo and surround sound.

Dolby holds over 50 U.S. patents and has written numerous papers on videotape recording, long-wavelength X-ray analysis, and noise reduction. He is a Fellow and past-president of the AES and a recipient of its Silver Medal Award; he is also a Fellow of the SMPTE and the BKSTS. The Society has recognized Dolby with several awards for his outstanding achievements, including the Samuel L. Warner Memorial Medal Award in 1978, the Alexander M. Poniatoff Gold Medal Award for Technical Excellence in 1982, and the SMPTE Progress Medal in 1983. The Society's highest honor, Honorary Membership, was bestowed on Dolby in 1992.

Established in 1980 and administered by the U.S. Department of Commerce, the National Medal of Technology is awarded by the President to individuals, teams of individuals, and companies in recognition of technological innovation and advancement of U.S. global competitiveness. It will be awarded to this year's recipients by President Clinton at a White House dinner late this summer.

The European Broadcasting Union (EBU) has announced that Philip Laven has been appointed director of the technical department, replacing George Waters, who is retiring. Laven joined the BBC in 1966 as a research engineer. After four years in New York, where he worked in operations, he returned to London to become head of engineering information. He was then appointed chief engineer in charge of research and development, a post he occupied until 1993, when he became controller, engineering policy.

Prior to joining the EBU in 1986, Waters was director general of Radio Telefís Éireann in Dublin, after serving as chief engineer, and assistant to the technical director. In addition to his work at the EBU, he has held, and will continue to hold, the position of president of the International Academy of Broadcasting (IAB), which he founded in Montreux, Switzerland in 1994.

The International Institute of Communications (IIC) will be holding its 28th annual conference from September 29 to October 2, 1997, at the Regent Hotel Sydney. "Tracking the Communications Marketplace: Technology, Culture, Commerce" will look at the future structure and control of the industry and the creation of new markets and market information, as well as provide an overview of market opportunities in the region. For more information, contact Sharon Campbell, IIC Secretariat, tel: +44 171 388 0671, fax: +44 171 380 0623, e-mail: sharon iicom.org.

Calendar

SMPTE Activities

NEW YORK, N.Y. — 139th SMPTE Technical Conference and Equipment Exhibit, Marriott Marquis Hotel, November 21-24, 1997.

Toronto, Ontario — 32nd Advanced Motion Imaging Conference, February 5-7, 1998.

For more information on these and other SMPTE activities contact SMPTE:
(914) 761-1100 Fax: (914) 761-3115

July

New Broadcast Standards and Systems, University of Surrey, Guildford, U.K. Info: The Institution of Electrical Engineers, Savoy Place, London, WC2R 0BL, U.K., e-mail: nsharp@ice.org.uk. July 7-11, 1997.

The 1997 ITS Annual Forum, Beverly Hilton Hotel, Beverly Hills, Calif. Info: International Teleproduction Society, 2230 Gallows Rd., Ste. 310, Dunn Loring, VA 22027. July 10-13, 1997.

ITEC '97, Tokyo, Japan. Info: Image Information and Television Engineers, Room No. 209, Kikal-shinko-Kaikan, 3-5-8 Shiba-Koen, Minato-ku, Tokyo 105, Japan, e-mail: ite@ite.or.jp. July 23-25, 1997.

August

The Illuminating Engineering Society of North America (IESNA) Annual Conference, Westin Hotel Seattle, Seattle, Wash. Info: Valerie Landers, Manager, Member Services, IESNA, 120 Wall St., 17th Fl., New York, NY 10005-4001. August 18-20, 1997.

September

IBC'97, RAI Exhibition and Congress Centre, Amsterdam, The Netherlands. Info: Sarah Campbell, IBC Office, Savoy Place, London, WC2R 0BLP, U.K. September 12-16, 1997.

IIC'97, Regent Hotel Sydney, Sydney, Australia. Info: Sharon Campbell, International Institute of Communications Secretariat, tel: +44 171 388 0671, fax: +44 171 380 0623, e-mail: sharon iicom.org. September 29-October 2, 1997.

October

IBTS '97, Milan Fair, Milan, Italy. Info: General Secretariat, Via Domenichino, 11 C.P. 15117 - 20150 Milan, Italy, e-mail: MC1703@MCLink.it. Oct. 16-20, 1997.