

News

Hopkins Wins Television Achievement Award

SMPTE member Dr. Robert Hopkins was presented with the Television Engineering Achievement Award by the National Association of Broadcasters at the Technology Luncheon held at NAB'98 in Las Vegas.

The award, established in 1959, is presented to industry leaders on the basis of a single significant contribution or contributions made over a period of time advancing the state of the art of broadcasting engineering.

Hopkins is currently vice-president and general manager of Sony Pictures High Definition Center and has been involved with television broadcasting his entire career. He served as executive director of the Advanced Television Systems Committee (ATSC) for ten years, and is considered the primary author of the ATSC Television Digital Standard. While at ATSC, he served the Department of State as the primary U.S. spokesman on digital television at international technical meetings. Hopkins holds seven patents related to television. He has also published several works pertaining to television and television broadcasting.

San Francisco Section Announces Three Full-Day Seminars

SMPTE's San Francisco section has announced three seminars for the 1998 Second Saturday Full-Day ATSC/DTV/MPEG series. Seminars scheduled for presentation include "Perception:

Hearing and Seeing," by Steve Vernon, Dolby Laboratories, and Charles Hintz, KTVU Partnership, Inc., on August 8, 1998; "Video Compression for All," by Jean-Georges Fritsch, Minerva Systems, and Charles Hintz on September 12, 1998; and "HDTV, DTV, and the Painful Alternatives," by Paul Farrelle and Charles Hintz on October 10, 1998.

"Perception: Hearing and Seeing," held at Dolby Laboratories, will discuss the subtle differences between the quality of audio in a live concert hall and the Dolby digital version. Attendees will also learn about visual perception and how the weakness of human vision becomes the strength of video compression.

"Video Compression for All," will be held at Stanford University and explain how compression systems evolved over time.

"HDTV, DTV, and the Painful Alternatives," will also be held at Stanford. This session will explain three motion-vector schemes, contribution-quality MPEG, the profile and levels of MPEG-2, and a host of other topics.

Seminars will begin at 9:30 a.m. and end at 4:30 p.m.

The single and 3-for-2 seminar prices are as follows: \$49 and \$98 for SMPTE members; \$69 and \$138 for AES, SBE, IICS, or IEEE members; and \$89 and \$178 for all others. Attendees of the 1997 series will be admitted for a special \$55 reprint fee.

Checks should be made payable to SMPTE S.F. 1998 Tutorials and sent to Andrew Zeyer, Finance Manager, SMPTE, 595 W. Hartsdale Ave., White Plains, NY 10607-1824.

Leitch Acquires Silicon Construction

Leitch Technology Corp., a sustaining member of SMPTE, has acquired 100% ownership of Silicon Construction (SiCon), Sweden AB.

Established in 1982, SiCon designs sophisticated micro-electronic circuits, which are fabricated as silicon chips. The company has 15 years of experience in advanced full-custom ASIC design and test, including advanced mixed signal circuits, high-speed digital circuits, analog-to-digital and digital-to-analog conversions, and synthesis from VHDL to full-custom ASIC. In addition to design, test, and consulting services, SiCon recently began production of its own designs, offering packaged and tested chips.

With the addition of SiCon, Leitch will have the ability to design chips for use in its own products. The acquisition will also allow Leitch to reduce the cost of components and test time in their products, according to Frederick Godard, president and COO of Leitch.

Aschenbrenner Promoted to Assistant Chief Engineer

Kent Aschenbrenner, a member of the Society, has been named assistant chief engineer, television operations at WTMJ-TV. Aschenbrenner has been an engineer in charge at the station since 1990. He began his career with Milwaukee's NBC affiliate as a part-time engineer in 1977.

The Franklin, Wisconsin, resident graduated from the Milwaukee school of Engineering with a bachelors degree in management.

Books, Booklets, Brochures

Video Camera Technology, by Arch C. Luther, covers the fundamentals and latest advances in cameras ranging from consumer camcorders to state-of-the-art professional broadcast models. Focusing on the latest digital technology used in today's cameras, the 14-chapter publication is the first to cover camera technology as it appears to a broad range of fields including broadcasting, computers, and telecommunications. The book is written for readers who have some technical background and are interested in the technical aspects of camera design or operation. This comprehensive examination of video camera technology is available from

Artech House, Inc., 685 Canton St., Norwood, MA 02062.

Canare Corp. of America has released Catalog 9 which lists the company's line of professional audio and video broadcast products including cable, connectors, digital-video patchbays, bulkhead panels, snake systems, cable reels, specialty tooling, and related accessories. The catalog features detailed technical product specifications with expanded full-color focus sections on the latest in serial digital video SDI interconnects for HDTV. Guides are available from Canare, 531 5th St., Unit A, San Fernando, CA 91340

RAF Electronic Hardware has released a 92-page metric products catalog describing various components used in PC board, instrument, and equipment assembly. The catalog illustrates and explains eight major hardware lines including: standoffs, spacers, captive panel screws, precision shoulder screws, and insulating washers. Tables are used to show material, finish, thread size selections, and conversion factors. For a free copy of the metric electronic catalog, contact RAF Hardware, 95 Silvermine Rd., Seymour, CT 06483, tel: (203) 888-2133, fax: (203) 888-9860, e-mail: info@rafhdwe.com, Internet: <http://www.rafhdwe.com>.