

## MESSAGE FROM WILLIAM C. MILLER SMPTE ENGINEERING VICE-PRESIDENT

The Engineering Vice-President is responsible for all of SMPTE's technical activities, including development of Standards, Recommended Practices, Engineering Guidelines and test materials. The work is carried out by the several hundred volunteers who participate in SMPTE's Technology Committees and by a small group of dedicated professionals at SMPTE headquarters.

The Society was originally founded to develop standards for the motion picture industry; it is best known for its standards, some of which are used in fields far beyond motion pictures and television. An example of this is SMPTE Time Code, as standardized in SMPTE 12M. SMPTE 12M was originally approved in April 1975, not quite 25 years ago. Since then it has supplanted nearly every other time code system.

In 1999 SMPTE approved, reaffirmed, or revised 89 engineering documents; another 11 were approved in January 2000. There are now 226 SMPTE Standards, 161 Recommended Practices, and 32 Engineering Guidelines, with literally dozens more in development. All of our engineering documents are available on CD; this format has proved extremely popular.

SMPTE issues a number of test materials, including test films and tapes. Our test films are the standards of the industry. In preparation are a series of tapes with subjective test material, necessary for subjective evaluation of such equipment as compression codecs.

SMPTE is recognized internationally as the leader in motion imaging standardization; our Technology Committees draw participation from around the world, and we have liaisons with ISO, IEC, and ITU. SMPTE is accredited by the American National Standards Institute as an Accredited Standards Developer, and through ANSI, we serve as Secretariat for ISO TC 36, Cinematography, and for the U.S. Technical Advisory Group to IEC SC100B, Video Recording.

### Engineering Committee Structure

Within the Engineering Department, the fundamental unit structure is the Technology Committee. Each Technology Committee is responsible for a specific area of motion picture or television technology. Currently, there are 12 Technology Committees:

F2	Film Technology	I23	Television Image Technology
P2	Projection Technology	C24	Compression Technology
L6	Laboratory Technology	W25	Wrapper and Metadata Technology
A12	Audio Technology	N26	Networking and File Transfer Technology
V16	Television Recording and Reproduction Technology	D27	Data Essence Technology
S22	Television Systems Technology	DC28	Digital Cinema Technology

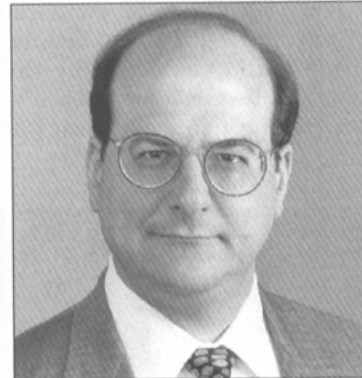
Each Technology Committee has a specific Scope, which defines the bounds of its activities. It may do its work directly or by means of several types of subgroups. Technology Committees are due-process consensus bodies as defined by ANSI; they operate under well-defined rules. Membership in Technology Committees is open to all; there are no fees. Membership in SMPTE is not a requirement.

The Technology Committees are organized into two Steering Committees, one for film and one for television. The Audio Technology Committee is part of both Steering Committees. The Steering Committees are chaired, respectively, by the Engineering Director for Film and the Engineering Director for Television.

The Standards Committee is responsible for oversight of the standards-development process. This committee is made up of the chairmen of the Technology Committees, the Engineering Directors, the Engineering Vice-President, who serves as chairman, and several others. All members of the Standards committee are considered officers of the Society; their appointments must be confirmed by the Board of Governors.

### Current Activities

The past year has been a period of rapid change in Engineering. We have converted to electronic communication, including conducting our standards ballots via e-mail; we now distribute documents using a file pro-



TOCOL (ftp) site. We also bring a network and document server to all of the television engineering meetings. We have also established a new class of participation, the Observer or O-member. Observers are entitled to notice of all meetings, minutes and ballot documents; they cannot vote on the documents, but may submit comments, which must be considered by the Committees. Observers do not have to meet the participation requirements of

P-members, which include attendance at meetings and return of ballots. It is entirely feasible for someone unable to travel to participate meaningfully in our work as an Observer. This change was made with the intent of drawing participation from a broader spectrum of the industry, particularly those without do not have the resources to travel to meetings.

Two new Technology committees were formed in the past year. The first,

D27 (Data Essence Technology), deals with data that may be part of a program but is not dependent on the audio or the video. The second, DC28 (Digital Cinema Technology), deals with all aspects of the digital distribution and presentation of theatrical features and ancillary programming. As an indication of the level of interest in this topic, at the recent D27 study group meetings in January, there were over 250 participants from 110 different companies. This group is working at a rapid pace, with study group meetings planned every six to eight weeks.

The best way to find out what's currently happening in Engineering is to visit the SMPTE Web site at [www.smpte.org](http://www.smpte.org) and look at the Engineering Committee pages. Here you will find a listing of all of the Technology Committees and their scopes, meeting schedules and location information, trial publication of documents, and, in months to come, a list of all SMPTE engineering documents, both those approved and those in development. As Society members, we want you to be aware of what we're working on, and we actively solicit your participation.

—Bill Miller

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*Please note:*

*Engineering activities, meetings schedules, the SMPTE website, and special reports are published monthly in the Engineering News section of the Journal.*

*Notices of approval of SMPTE Standards, Recommended Practices, and Engineering Guidelines also appear monthly. Proposed SMPTE Standards, Recommended Practices, and Engineering Guidelines are published in their entirety as they become available.*

*The SMPTE Standards are now available on CD ROM, please see p. 174 for more information.*

*The Engineering Test Film Department has a full line of test materials for television and motion pictures in stock. Contact Headquarters for information on ordering.*