

Industry News

Robert Amoroso Appointed Technology Deployment Specialist at Leitch

Leitch Technology Corp. has appointed SMPTE member Robert Amoroso, to the position of technologist, Server Products for the company's western region. Amoroso will be responsible for providing pre- and post-sale technical product support for Leitch's server products in partnership with the Leitch sales force. He will collaborate with salespersons to anticipate the customer's technical requirements and generate solutions to fit specific needs.

Amoroso has more than ten years experience in sales engineering, marketing development, and technical support, having held progressively responsible positions with companies such as Sony Electronics, Inc., KHRR-TV in Tucson, AZ, and KSTS-TV in San Jose, CA.

Fox Expands Distribution Capabilities with Tandberg

Fox Broadcasting Co. has selected a new digital satellite system for delivery of network programming to television affiliates around the country. The system, valued in excess of \$1.5 million, features Tandberg Television's new evolutionary 5000 digital broadcasting product range and will mark the first U.S. installation of this equipment. To be installed in Los Angeles, it will handle the digital distribution of 16 MPEG-2 4:2:2 video channels to more than 200 Fox affiliate stations around the country, using four 36-MHz C-band satellite transponders. The move to digital from analog allows Fox to dramatically reduce the number of transponders required to distribute its network programming, resulting in savings of millions of dollars per year in transponder costs.

Historic Release of Condor Captured with Panasonic Camcorders

Panasonic Broadcast & Television Systems Co. provided the use of DVCPRO50 lightweight digital component camcorders to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to document the release of adult Condor #8 (AC#8) into her home territory in the rugged Sespe Condor Sanctuary near the town of Fillmore in Ventura County, CA. Videographers recorded the event with Panasonic digital camcorders, and later provided a pool feed of footage from the release, as well as "B" roll material for network and local broadcasters



Engineering Vice-President William Miller presents SMPTE Progress Medal to Mark I. Krivocheev (R)

Krivocheev at SMPTE Headquarters

Prof. Dr. Mark I. Krivocheev visited SMPTE Headquarters in White Plains, NY, on Tuesday, April 18, on his way back from NAB2000 to his home country of Russia. An informal ceremony was held, where he was presented the 1999 SMPTE Progress Medal. Krivocheev was not able to travel to New York for the 141st SMPTE Technical Conference last October to personally receive the honor from President Charles Jablonski at the Honors and Awards Reception. Engineering Vice-President William Miller presented the medal to Krivocheev on behalf of the Society.

The Progress Medal, the most prestigious of SMPTE awards recognizes an individual who has made outstanding technical contributions to the progress of engineering phases of the motion picture and/or television industries. Krivocheev has been involved in the development of conventional television in the 1940s to the development of digital television and HDTV in the 1990s. He has participated in the ITU-R Study Group on Television since its inception in 1948.

Editor's Note: Krivocheev's speech at the 50th Anniversary of the ITU-R Study Group appears on p. 313 of the April 2000 SMPTE Journal.

In 1986, AC#8, a wild-born California condor, was the last female wild bird captured and is the first of the original wild birds to be released, along with three Los Angeles Zoo-raised juvenile condors experiencing life as wild birds for the first time. Due to the remoteness of the release site, direct viewing of the release was not possible.

Bell Microproducts Acquires Hammer Storage

Bell Microproducts has tendered a letter of intent for the acquisition of Hammer Storage. A leading manufacturer of digital storage sub-systems based in Newark, CA, Hammer, among the largest and most sophisticated storage solution install bases in the entertainment industry, includes such clients as Dream Works, Warner Brothers, Universal Studios, the major

networks, and Sony. Most recent film credits include *Star Wars Episode 1*.

Imax Advanced Projector Design

Imax Corp. announced that it is moving ahead with the design of a new generation of advanced digital light processing cinema projectors based upon Texas Instrument's DLP cinema technology, which has been used to digitally project such films as *Star Wars: Episode 1—The Phantom Menace*, *Toy Story 2*, and *Bicentennial Man* in beta tests.

Imax, through its Digital Projection International (DPI) subsidiary, plans an aggressive rollout of the advanced digital projectors as soon as the DLP cinema technology is fully accessible. DPI intends to manufacture and market the DLP-based projectors to commercial movie theaters

currently using 35mm film-based display technology. There are estimated to be more than 75,000 movie projectors around the world, most are expected to be converted to digital in the next ten years, representing a multibillion dollar market opportunity.

Kodak Opens Training Center for Projectionists

Eastman Kodak Co. has opened a state-of-the-art training center in its Los Angeles, CA, facility, providing hands-on training for projection booth personnel. Operators from participating theaters spend two to three days honing their skills on 35mm film projectors, sound equipment, and any other equipment used in the projection booth. The program is designed to provide useful training for all levels of booth personnel; from loading platters to changing projector bulbs, every contingency for real-life situations is incorporated into each projectionist's education.

"Often, people who work in the booth just don't get exposed to some important aspects of their job," said Jim Ferguson, training center manager for Kodak's Cinema Operations group. "A lot of people we train have been projectionists for some time, but if they don't deal with something every day, they tend to forget how to do it. We help them remember."

ATTC Announces Project to Assist DTV Receiver Manufacturers

The Advanced Television Technology Center in conjunction with MSTV has begun a project that will ultimately assist

consumer electronics manufacturers in improving the performance of DTV receivers. Conceived nearly a year ago, the ATTC has embarked on the challenge of digitally capturing real world RF DTV signals so that the industry can have a repeatable source of test material. The goal of this project is to capture DTV signals that contain the complex and problematic interference mechanism that represents the real environment within which DTV receivers must operate. Manufacturers can then recall the captured and stored RF data at will, recreating the original signals to test and optimize the performance of DTV receivers.

Itelco Launches COFDM Transmitter Components in U.S.

In a move that is certain to have an impact on the debate between 8VSB and COFDM, Itelco has launched the industry's first COFDM exciter modulator for the North American market. Despite the company's neutrality, availability of the new COFDM exciter modulator in the U.S. is likely to stir controversy, since it is now possible for the first time, to test 8VSB and COFDM systems together.

JVC Expands Service

JVC Service and Engineering has announced recent expansion of the company, which includes the doubling of field engineering manpower to strengthen the quality and quantity of customer service efforts. As part of its expansion, JVC will open a new professional regional service and support center in Atlanta, GA, to

respond to the needs of professional customers. In addition, it will open satellite service centers in Carlsbad, CA and Miami, FL to support its D-ILA technology, and supplement existing facilities in New Jersey, Chicago, and Los Angeles, currently supporting JVC professional end-users.

Videotek and Miranda Offer Monitor and Control Solution

Videotek has entered into an agreement with Miranda Technologies whereby the Videotek VTM-300 multiformat, on-screen monitor will be integrated into Miranda's Kaleido-QC visual monitoring and quality control solution. The VTM-300 display is integrated seamlessly into the Kaleido-QC screen providing direct monitoring of audio and video parameters. Control over the VTM-300 is fully integrated into the Kaleido environment, allowing users to select display modes directly from the Kaleido-QC's touch-screen or mouse interface.

Leitch Extends HDTV Product Offering

Leitch Technology Corp. is expanding its assortment of HDTV products that will extend broadcasters ability to control HDTV signal processing and timing. The newly introduced HDTV audio and video synchronizers can multiplex and demultiplex any audio format into HD signals. Previous Leitch versions included models that featured audio synchronization, audio synchronization with multiplexing, or audio demultiplexing—the new group encompasses all of these capabilities.

Obituaries

Howard Miller, a member of the Society, passed away on April 6, 2000. Miller who had a distinguished career in the broadcasting industry, served as senior vice-president, Broadcast Operations and Engineering for Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) for seven years and was responsible for operating the company's nationwide satellite interconnection system, overseeing the computer services department and directing the satellite replacement project.



Prior to joining PBS, he worked at Westinghouse Broadcasting and Cable, where he held numerous management and engineering positions.

A leader in implementing the transition from analog to digital distribution, Miller was actively involved in the HDTV development and selection process. In 1992, he was a recipient of the SMPTE Presidential Proclamation, in recognition of his continued pursuit of new technology and his active support of SMPTE and other engineering committees. In 1996, the Society of Broadcast Engineers recognized him for his leadership in technology and training. He was also commended for his achievements in DTV standards setting at the NAB Engineering Dinner in 1999.

Miller served on the FCC Advisory Committee on Advanced Television

Service; was chairman of the Advanced Television Test Center, which he created and built; was a board member of the Center for Advanced Television Studies, NAM HDTV Conference Committee, the Montreux Symposium Planning Committee; and a member of the Broadcasters Caucus on Advanced Television, and the International Committee of ISBT.

Metin Cambel has passed away at age 53. Cambel who worked as a technical manager at WTTG-TV5 in Washington, DC, became a member of SMPTE in 1997.

James T. Cordon, Jr., has died at age 54. Cordon previously worked as a systems engineer at NBC. He had been a member of the Society since 1971.