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.