IEC/TC 100—Audio, Video and Multimedia Equipment and Systems

By Mark S. Hyman

International Standardization and the Role of IEC

Founded in 1906, the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) is the global organization that prepares and publishes international standards for all electrical, electronic, and related technologies. The IEC was founded as a result of a resolution passed at the International Electrical Congress held in St. Louis (U.S.A) in 1904. The membership consists of more than 60 participating countries, including all of the world's major trading nations and a growing number of industrializing countries.

The mission of the IEC is to promote, through its members, international cooperation on all questions of electrotechical standardization and related matters, such as the assessment of conformity to standards, in the fields of electricity, electronics, and related technologies. The IEC charter embraces all electrotechnologies including electronics, magnetics, electromagnetics, electroacoustics, multimedia, telecommunications, and energy production and distribution, as well as associated general disciplines such as terminology and symbols, electromagnetic compatibility, measurement and performance, dependability, design and development, safety, and the environment.

What is an International Standard?

A standard is a document, established by consensus and approved by a recognized body, that provides, for common and repeated uses, rules, guidelines, or characteristics for activities or their results aimed at the achievement of the optimum degree of order in a given context. An international standard is a standard adopted by an international standardizing/standards organization made available to the public.

IEC TC100—Audio, Video and Multimedia Systems and Equipment

The scope of IEC TC100 is to prepare international publications in the field of audio, video, and multimedia systems and equipment. These publications mainly include specification of the performance, methods of measurements for consumer and professional equipment and their application in systems and its interoperability with other systems and equipment.

IEC TC100 Committee has seven technical areas of work.

TA1—Digital receiving equipment

TA2—Color measurement and management

TA3—Infrared system interfaces

TA4—Digital systems interfaces

TA5—Cable networks for television signals, sound signals and interactive services

TA6—High data rate storage media and equipment

TA7—Moderate data rate storage media and equipment

TC 100 has developed and published over 240 standards/publications with an additional 80 documents currently under development.

Representation and Participation

There are 20 participating/voting members of TC100: Austria, Belgium, China, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Netherlands, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Russian Federation, Turkey, Ukraine, the U.K., and the U.S.

There are 19 observer countries: Australia, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Egypt, Greece, Hungary, India, Ireland, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, and Yugoslavia.

TC 100 has active liaisons with other IEC, ISO, and ITU technical committees as well as numerous international and national bodies. In the U.S. the member body is the American National Standards Institute. U.S. participation in TC100 is administered by the (CEA) Consumer Electronics Association and membership within the U.S. TAG (Technical Advisory Group) is open to anyone involved in the above-mentioned activities. For further information about TC 100, contact Ms. Wadei Powell at CEA, <wadeip@cea.org> Other international contacts are available at the IEC website: <www.iec.ch>

Mark S. Hyman has been named the new Chairman of IEC TC100: Audio, Video and Multimedia Systems and Equipment. Proposed by the TC100 Secretariat and appointed by the IEC Central Office, Geneva, Switzerland, for a term of six years, the chairman is responsible for the overall management of that committee, including any sub-committees and working groups.

Hyman has been the Staff Engineer at SMPTE since 1989. His responsibilities include technical and administrative functions relating to the standardization activities of the Society. He has been involved with the IEC as a Technical Advisor for SC100B, formerly Video Recording, and is currently Chairman of IEC TC100 Advisory Group on Strategy. He also has been a U.S. Technical Advisor for ISO TC36 Cinematography. Hyman previously worked as a broadcast engineer for RCA Television Systems in Camden, NJ.