

NATAS Emmy Award Recipients

The National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences (NATAS) presents technical Emmy Awards annually for achievements—including exceptional contributions to broadcast technology within the television industry—that materially affect transmission, recording, or reception. The following are some of this year's recipients:

Quantel won an Emmy for outstanding achievement in technological advancement. The award recognizes the company's pioneering effort in the development of its tapeless news system, named "Inspiration." It shares the award with the UK independent national news provider, ITN. The Inspiration system is centered on Quantel's unique true random access Clipbox server, which enables simultaneous access to, and editing of, all material held in its store by hundreds of journalists. Editing begins the moment any feed starts entering the server, with journalists having access to the video on their desktops, integrated with their AP ENPS newsroom computer system. Results are ready to go to air under automation control the second they are completed.

The Broadcast and Network Solutions unit of Thomson multimedia was awarded a Scientific and Technological Emmy for "pioneering developments in shared video-data storage systems technology for use in television video servers." As holders of the majority of storage area network (SAN) patents in video and broadcast technology, Thomson multimedia's servers incorporate the latest in SAN technology, which

ARCHIVAL SEARCH

The Archival Papers and Historical Committee has as one of its missions "to encourage pioneers to place their work on record in the form of papers for publication in the *Journal*." This can also be accomplished by arranging to have these motion picture and television pioneers interviewed in front of a motion picture film or video camera, or on an audio tape recorder. The presentation can be located in the person's home, a film or video studio, before a local SMPTE Section, at a national conference, or any other suitable venue. The Committee is asking SMPTE members to help in identifying not only "pioneers," but also "old-timers" who have had a long range of experience in a specific technical field. Each person so identified will be contacted by the Committee to explore means by which they can share the historical aspects of their experience with SMPTE members. All presentations, in whatever form, will be placed in the SMPTE archives and possibly appear on the SMPTE web pages. For interviews, we'll try to enlist the SMPTE Section closest to the venue. Please refer your recommendations to Ed Schuller, Chair, by phone or fax at (516) 676-3895, or via e-mail to bt@mte.com.

offers simplified data storage management, scalability, flexibility, availability and improved data access, movement, and backup.

Leitch was honored for "pioneering development in shared video-data storage system technology for use in television video servers." With the introduction in 1994 of its first server, the VR30, Leitch pioneered the concept of shared storage, which provides multiple users simultaneous access to video data without the need to duplicate content. Leitch's shared storage technology was developed by Todd Roth, who was awarded the "shared video data storage system with separate video data and information buses" patent in December 2000.

Matsushita Electric Co. Ltd. (Panasonic) was presented with an Emmy award in recognition of its pioneering efforts in the early 1980s that led to the development of consumer camcorders.

Rohde & Schwarz received an Emmy award for its TV Test Transmitter SFG, acknowledged for "outstanding achievement in engineering development." The SFQ, a solution for testing digital TV sys-

tems, was recognized for its technology that enables it to produce perfect digital modulation in all worldwide standards. A multiformat, frequency agile, digital test transmitter, the SFQ was designed to accommodate terrestrial, cable, satellite broadcast, and data industries.

Cinema Manufacturers Demonstrate Server Interoperability

Avica Technology Corp., EVS, and the Grass Valley Group announced that they have achieved compatibility for the playback of MPEG-2 encoded content on their respective systems. The companies also announced the formation of the MPEG Interoperability Initiative, which is chartered to facilitate interoperability between multiple manufacturers. The results of the interoperability engineering effort were verified at the Hollywood Digital Cinema Lab in a technology demonstration that marks substantial progress made toward deployment of interoperable digital cinema playback systems. Each manufacturer provided encoded content to the others and tests were conducted to verify that regardless of the

source, content could be loaded, recognized, and played back on all three systems.

New Tool Tests Digital TV Receivers for Compatibility

Sarnoff Corp. has announced a new release of the Program and System Protocol (PSIP) tool for its Sarnoff Compliance Bitstreams. The new device adds detailed tests that reveal how digital television receivers handle the broadcast DTV tables used to generate electronic program guides. The bitstreams significantly reduce the development cycle for program guides in digital TVs. A new service that is designed to increase receiver sales and speed the transition to digital television, the PSIP bitstreams are a recent addition to the family of Sarnoff Compliance Bitstreams, which has earned an Emmy Award for its suite of tests evaluating the performance of digital/high-definition television receivers and cable TV converters.

New Technology Center

Rainbow Network Communications Technology Center has opened a 62,000-sq-ft facility in Bethpage, NY, to provide day-to-day origination and transmission of more than a dozen networks reaching millions of viewers on a daily basis. As an extension of Rainbow's consistent delivery of high-quality entertainment, sports, and news, this full-service network programming origination and distribution company supplies an array of services to the cable and broadcast industries.

The new facility serves as the command center for all the networks operated by Rainbow Media Holdings, Inc., a division of Cablevision, which includes American Movie Classics, Bravo, IFC, MuchMusic USA, and Fox Sports Net Networks, in addition to serving third-party clients.

Education Initiative Launched

Officials from the RNC Technology Center and Rainbow Media Holdings, Inc., also announced an educational initiative with Power to Learn, Cablevision Systems Corp.'s commercial-free education initiative, and local high schools. Through the RNC/Power to Learn partnership, students will participate in a Technology Day program, which will provide the unique opportunity to observe first-hand the inner workings of a state-of-the-art cable television origination and transmission center.

NEC Demonstrates New HD System

NEC Technologies has developed a new high-definition system, the first turnkey solution for the digital image storage and presentation of movies in movie theaters, post-production houses, and movie studio screening rooms. The system consists of NEC's SX6000DC HD Cinema projector along with a new NEC server utilizing lossless compression. This server enables movie files to be transported to the system in relatively small file sizes and downloaded in a quick and practical manner without degrading or compromising image quality, making this the first truly deployable HD cinema system.

Triveni and Zenith Join Forces with PBS

Taking a giant step to reinvent the Public Broadcasting Service's primetime schedule, PBS has joined hands with Zenith Corp. and Triveni Digital to present the new interactive television series, "Life 360." In the 13-week primetime series, PBS will broadcast the interactive television content over terrestrial DTV, cable, and satellite.

Zenith DTV set-top boxes built to the Advanced Television Enhancement Forum (ATVEF) are provided to some 100 families during the

trial. PBS will use Triveni's Digital Skyscraper data broadcasting system to insert data into the DTV transmission. The five participating stations: NJN (Trenton), KQED (San Francisco), WMVS (Milwaukee), KRMA (Denver), and WGBH (Boston) are provided with ATVEF-enabled products, which can receive and display interactive DTV content, allowing the enhancements to be broadcast with the material.

Leitch and DTS Provides Broadcast Solution

Leitch and DTS will join together to offer premium surround sound services to broadcasters. The two companies, both technology innovators, believe that the relationship will offer broadcasters a better way to compete with the quality offered by DVD solutions currently used in the home theater marketplace. DTS, specializing in multichannel audio for cinemas and home theaters, have developed an infinitely variable bit rate version of their compression algorithm. Leitch has a wealth of experience integrating audio and video technology within a broadcast infrastructure. Together, the two companies plan to offer an end-to-end system for the broadcaster interested in the emerging premium sound market.

Thomson multimedia Announces New Website

Thomson multimedia Broadcast has announced the launch of its new website, www.thomsonbroadcast.com. The new site features the latest product information on Thomson multimedia cameras, production switchers, film imaging, media creation, servers, automation, VTRs, routing and control, and broadcast solutions. In addition, corporate information can be found on the site.