

European Broadcasting Union

Addendum to the Progress Committee Report

Ed. Note: This report (prepared by Rudolf Gressmann, Director of the European Broadcasting Union) arrived at SMPTE Headquarters on 30 March 1979 — too late for publication in the May 1979 Journal. We are pleased to present it here as an addendum to the Progress Committee Report.

There were few outstanding achievements in European television broadcasting during 1978. As far as technical progress is concerned, the exhibits at the International Broadcasting Convention held in London, United Kingdom, in September, showed the continuing extension of the use of digital techniques, notably for recording color television signals on magnetic tape, demonstrated by the Independent Broadcasting Authority. Following the successful launch in April of the European-made Orbital Test Satellite (OTS) intended to be the forerunner of the future European Telecommunications satellite, numerous experimental transmissions by satellite of television signals in the 12-GHz band have been undertaken as part of the test program. Little change has been recorded in the operating statistics of the 30 EBU member organizations in 25 countries that have access to the Eurovision program interchanges through terrestrial circuits (Table 1) although the introduction of a second national network in Ireland in November brought the total number of program services provided by those organizations to 45 at the end of the year. Like RTE-1, RTE-2 contains a wide range of programs and commercial advertising and is intended to provide alternative viewing in the south and west of the country, where it is not possible to receive programs from abroad. Both VHF and UHF transmitters are now being used for both program services, the latter for the first time in the Republic of Ireland.

Other points of interest in the statistics are the increase in the number of hours of transmission of the second program services of the BRT and the RTBF, and the continued expansion of the color transmitter networks for the three program services that are still duplicated in monochrome on obsoles-

cent scanning standards: TF-1 in France and BBC-1 and ITV in the United Kingdom. These monochrome transmissions will be discontinued as soon as the number of receivers fed by them has declined to an insignificant value, probably in the early 1980s.

Except in the case of the few organizations that have introduced color broadcasting only recently, or continue to operate in monochrome, virtually all European program production is now in color, and the proportion of the potential audience equipped for color reception is now greater than 50% in several countries. It should be remembered that the data on receivers is in most cases derived from records of licenses issued, and these do not necessarily take into account the possibility of there being more than one receiver per household. Probably the biggest single incentive for color receiver sales was the coverage of the World (soccer) football Cup competition, which was held in Argentina in August. Although no decision about a choice of color system has yet been taken in Argentina, where monochrome television employs 625-line scanning and is transmitted within 6-MHz channels, sufficient 625-line PAL-system production facilities were provided from international sources to ensure full color coverage, which was relayed by satellite throughout the world. The transmissions to a total of 26 television networks in Western Europe and North Africa were coordinated by the EBU Operations Group. The success of the operation, which involved coverage of two matches played simultaneously in any two out of five widely separated cities, was largely due to the close collaboration of Broadcasting Organizations and the Organizing Committee at the planning stage.

Preparations are continuing also for the coverage of the next major international sports events: the Winter Olympic Games at Lake Placid, NY, USA, and the Summer Olympic Games in Moscow, USSR, both of which will be held in 1980. As the installation of a temporary earth station at Lake Placid, considered to be the most economic solution, has not been authorized, contracts have been placed for two additional terres-

trial circuits for use by the joint EBU/OIRT Operations Group, expected to consist of about 140 persons headed by J. Hoesater from Norway. The EBU Operations Group at Moscow will be equally large, and considerable difficulty is being experienced in reducing the number of accredited representatives of member organizations to the total of 1000 set by the Organizing Committee.

The ordinary traffic on the network of permanently leased sound and vision circuits linking the production centers of EBU members in Western Europe and certain countries around the Mediterranean Sea, coordinated by the Eurovision service, increased by some 13% from a total of 2893 hours in 1977 to 3462 hours in 1978. This reflects mainly the growth of the number of transmissions other than news, from 6042 to 7617 during the same period, as the total number of news items distributed during the three daily transmissions scheduled for this purpose increased from 4994 to only 5508, which is still less than the record of 6018 reached in 1975. Such frequent transmissions place a heavy burden on the staff of the Eurovision coordination center, which is still located in cramped accommodation in the Law Courts building in Brussels. It was not possible to transfer this center to the new installation in the BRT/RTBF production center during 1978 as had been hoped, but the removal is expected to have taken place in April 1979.

Finally, there is little progress to report regarding satellites. The studies of the possible use of the proposed European Communications Satellite (ECS) has shown that it would not form an economic replacement for the existing terrestrial network unless the earth stations can be located much closer to the national production centers than is at present envisaged. An International measuring campaign has been undertaken on the second Orbital Test Satellite OTS-2, which was successfully launched and placed in geostationary orbit in May, and much useful data on propagation at 12 and 14 GHz has been obtained. Several EBU members have acquired earth stations for use in these experiments.

Table I. Television - 1978: characteristics of the television services participating regularly in Eurovision.

Country and programme designation	Transmission system*	No. of television transmitters		Coverage of population %		Programme hours per week		Network length km				Estimated No. of receivers (thousands)		Estimated No. of receivers per 100 pers.	
		1978	1977	1978	1977	1978	1977	1978	1977	radio-relay	cable	1978	1977	1978	1977
Algeria: RTA	B-PAL	40	40	90		64		6204	2800	0	0	760	640	4.2	4.0
Austria: ORF-1 ORF-2	B(G)-PAL G(B)-PAL	223(121) 301(28)	221(101) 289(27)	93.4 90.6	92.5 89.4	66.0 47.3	64.2 46.7	7976	7976	72	72	2070	2100	28.4	28.2
Belgium: BRT-1 BRT-2 RTEF RTEFbis	B(H)-PAL N-PAL B(H)-PAL H-PAL	3(3) 6 11(2) 5	3(3) 5 11(2) 5	90 99.8 94.9 78	90 99.8 94.9 78	53.4 10.7 56.3 11.5	54.0 6.3 59.8 6.5	2097 2027	2027	0 0	0 0	2885 2700	2700	29.3	27.5
Denmark: DR	B-PAL	30	30	99.9	99.9	47.1	44.9	4278	4278	124	124	1810	1800	35.5	35.3
Finland: YLE-1 YLE-2	B(G)-PAL G(B)-PAL	64(5) 26(18)	67(2) 21(18)	99 89	99 89	54 32	62 32	12037	10613	0.5	0.5	1502	1500	31.6	31.6
France: TF1 A2 FR3	L-SECAM(E) ⁷ L-SECAM L-SECAM	316(1171) 1122 348	258(1169) 1087 321	54 99 97	40(99) 99 96	77.4 ⁴ 73.5 ⁴ 15.2 ⁸	78.5 ⁴ 73 ⁴ 38.5 ⁸	51212	46538	419	413	15750	15500	29.6	29.4
Germany, FR: ARD-1 ZDF ARD-3	B(G)-PAL G(B)-PAL G(B)-PAL	1066(307) 1847(2) 1837(2)	1046(275) 1792(2) 1859(2)	97.2 98.2 96.8	97.1 97 96.8	68 ⁶ 66.5 45 ⁵	67.5 ⁶ 64.8 45 ⁵	33521	33776	749	749	20310	19100	33.5	31.5
Greece: ERT	B	77	77	95	95	60	61.5	4600	4600	26	13	1385	1200	15.8	13.7
Ireland: RTE-1 RTE-2	I-PAL(A) I-PAL	33(3) 9	24(7)	98(5) 90	98	65	65	2078	2078	11.5	11.5	660	650	20.7	20.4
Italy: RAI-1 RAI-2	B(G)-PAL G-PAL	828(3) 480	822(3) 469	98.8 97.0	98.7 96.9	65.3 65.5	62.8 62.6	34300	31200	294	277	12900	12700	23.1	22.6
Libya: LJB	B-SECAM	13	13		85		64		3000		0	145	100	7.2	5.0
Luxembourg: RTL	L-SECAM (C-PAL)	1 (2)	1 (2)	92 99	92 99	51.0	47.5	16	16	0	0	88	87	24.8	24.3
Malta: TVM	B	1	1	99	99	40	40	5	5	0	0	88	85	27.5	26.5
Monaco: TMC-1 TMC-2	L-SECAM G-SECAM	3 1	3 1	99.9 99	99.9 99	40 42	40 40	16	14	0	0		10		50
Morocco: RTM	B-SECAM	24	24	80	80	42	41	6863	4108	0.2	0	659	650	3.6	3.5
Netherlands: NOS-1 NOS-2	B(G)-PAL G-PAL	4(9) 13	4(9) 13	100 99	100 99	47.7 37.3	47.8 35.8	3068	3068	218	218	4050	3900	29.0	28.2
Norway: NRK	B(G)-PAL	1062(12)	905(2)	96.5	96.5	46.1 ⁴	45.4 ⁴	12163	12163	26	16	1250	1200	30.7	29.8
Portugal: RTP-1 RTP-2	B** G**	37 6	35 6	85 82	82 32	76 20	93.2 ⁴ 19.7	3524	3514	0	0	1200	1200	12.7	12.7
Spain: TVE-1 TVE-2	B(G)-PAL G(B)-PAL	730(2) 89(5)	717(11) 79(5)	95.5 64.4	94 63	75 36	77 37	17423	16518	0	0	9070	8500	25.2	24.0
Sweden: SR-1 SR-2	B(G)-PAL G(B)-PAL	225(35) 336	220(11) 228	99.6 99.4	99.6 99.2	41.1 37.4	40 35.2	33500	33300	790	625	3120	3100	37.7	37.5
Switzerland: SRG SSR TSI	B(G)-PAL B(G)-PAL B(G)-PAL	202(151) 67(263) 52(280)	186(139) 62(233) 48(259)	99.0 ¹ 96.0 ² 96.0 ³	99.1 ¹ 95 ² 95 ³	65 57 55	63 56 54	2320	2320	0	0	1928	1900	30.6	30.2
Tunisia: RTT	B-SECAM	14	14	98	98	60 ⁴	60	3350	2600	0	0	300	260	4.8	4.3
Turkey: TRT	B	68	58	84	81	45	43	3968	2644	0	0	2637	2500	6.6	6.2
United Kingdom: BBC-1 BBC-2 IBA	I-PAL(A) I-PAL I-PAL(A)	340(110) 337 366(47)	315(110) 312 301(47)	98.3 98.3 97.8	97.8 97.8 97.8	97.8 73.4 104 ⁵	97.5 71.5 96 ⁵	9425 6074	9575 7135	899 688	851 670	19050	19000	34.1	34.0
Yugoslavia: JRT-1 JRT-2	B(G)-PAL G-PAL	431 264	389 1	89 93	95 30	42 23	79 36	21169	18271	0	0	3957	3700	17.9	17.1

Notes:

Where the same programme is transmitted by means of two different systems, the brackets () identify the corresponding characteristics.

* The various transmission systems are identified by means of the letters used in CCIR Report 624

** Experimental colour transmissions

- 1 Proportion of population within the coverage area of at least 1 programme service
- 2 Proportion of population within the coverage area of at least 2 programme services
- 3 Proportion of population within the coverage area of at least 3 programme services
- 4 Data include duration of educational programmes that are not broadcast throughout the year
- 5 Average figures applicable in the regions in which this service is provided
- 6 Certain transmitters broadcast a further 18.5 hours per week
- 7 Some broadcasting in 819-lines in monochrome
- 8 Certain transmitters broadcast a further 32 hours per week, relaying TF1 in colour