SPECIAL EDITION

A Report of Digital Video Demonstrations Using Component Coding

FOREWORD

This special issue of the *SMPTE JOURNAL*, devoted to the development of component-coded digital video specifications and a practical demonstration of their feasibility in the NTSC environment, represents a highly significant accomplishment in administration, engineering, and standards activity of the Society. The rapid escalation of digital technology and related developments have improved packing density in video recording, making possible a realistic consideration of specifications directed towards becoming international standards affecting the development of video technology for the next several decades. The articles which follow speak eloquently of the technical concepts in progress.

What must be read between the lines and beyond the significant accomplishments of the authors is the dedication of energy, belief in the due-process concept of standards development, sponsorships of tests and time to evaluate theories, extensive international cooperation, dedicated leadership by the SMPTE Digital Group Chairmen Hopkins, Davies, Davidoff, Connolly, and Ginsburg, and self-sacrificing participation by more than 100 expert committee members, as well as the cooperation of their sponsoring organizations.

The man-hours spent in committee and travel have allowed a thorough review of various approaches, and of majority and minority views. In-depth, direct, international discussions have also taken place in order to insure that standards recommended contain adequate flexibility to accommodate the escalating digital technology. In this brief introduction, I extend the Society's and my personal appreciation for the dedicated individual, organizational, and international support represented in bringing digital video technology to the point of a pivotal standards decision.

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