National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences Presents Six Awards for Engineering Excellence

At the seventh annual National Academy of Arts and Science Engineering Awards ceremony, six Emmy Awards for distinguished achievement in the science of television engineering were presented to the following companies: Ampex Corp.; Kudelski, S.A./Nagra; Lexicon, Inc.; Sony Corp.; RCA Corp.; and Tektronix Corp. The Society is proud to acknowledge that five of these companies are Sustaining Members of the SMPTE.

More than 450 engineering professionals from leading electronics companies around the world attended the ceremony, held on September 11, 1984, in the Imperial Ballroom of the Sheraton Centre Hotel in New York City. Among the countries represented were Switzerland, Japan, Great Britain, France, and the U.S.

Ampex Corp., Redwood City, Calif., and Kudelski, S.A./Nagra, Switzerland, received awards for their joint development of "an extremely lightweight and compact, portable 1-in. Type-C VTR which, with its quality imagery and sound, provides producers with a highly mobile recording facility." The VPR-5 recorder weighs only 15 lbs and combines Ampex video quality with the type of sound for which Kudelski's Nagra recorders are known worldwide.

Academy president John Cannon (L) presented the Emmy to Joseph C. Volpe, vice-president and general manager, RCA Broadcast Systems Div.

This was the seventh Emmy award received by Ampex Corp. Accepting for Ampex was Mark L. Sanders, vice-president and general manager,

Stefan M. Kudelski, president, Kudelski S.A. (Nagra), accepting on behalf of the company.

Mark L. Sanders, vice-president and general manager, Audio Video Systems Div., Ampex Corp., accepting award on behalf of Ampex.

Accepting the award from NATAS president John Cannon (L) are (L-R) William G. Connolly, president, Sony Broadcast Products Co.; Kenji Tamiya, president, Sony Corp. of America; and Koichi Tsunoda, executive vice-president, Sony Corp. of America.

Audio Systems Div. Stefan M. Kudelski, president, Kudelski, S.A./Nagra, accepted the award on behalf of his company.

Lexicon, Inc., received an Emmy for the development of their Lexicon Model 1200 Audio Time Compressor and Expander.

Sony Corp. was presented with an award for "materially improving the quality and efficiency of animation production by the development of single-frame recording techniques on stationary videotape, and the incorporation of the technology in the 1-inch Type-C equipment." The award-winning BVH-2500 videotape recorder was expressly designed for still-frame animation, mass storage and retrieval systems, and has 200,000 frame/400,000 field storage capability in addition to functioning as a conventional Type-C machine. The recorder significantly speeds up the animation process to keep pace with today's state-of-the-art computer technology.

William G. Connolly, president, Sony Broadcast Products Co., accepted the award on behalf of the company. This was the fourth Emmy to be given to Sony.

RCA Corp., Broadcast Systems Div., received the Distinguished Engineering Award "for pioneering work in the development of circular polarization technology in television broadcasting." While engineering and design work was begun earlier, circularly polarized (CP) broadcasting for television was authorized by the FCC in 1977. The first operational system was supplied by RCA Broadcast Systems Div. for WLS-TV, Chicago. In the interval since, the technology has expanded and CP television broadcasting has reached around the globe, from the U.S. to Mexico, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, and South Korea.

The circularly polarized transmitting technique, using vertical and horizontal signals, was first developed for FM broadcasting. In designing CP antennas, horizontal and vertical radiation components are combined to produce a circularly polarized field. The result is a dramatic improvement in reception, particularly in areas where indoor antennas are commonly used. Reception problems such as ghosting can be drastically reduced with circular polarization.

Joseph C. Volpe, division vice-president and general manager, Broadcast Systems Div., accepted the award for RCA. This was the ninth Emmy awarded to RCA for its technical and engineering contributions to the television industry.

In addition, Academy President John Cannon presented the Academy's most prestigious award to an individual, the Trustees Award. Honored posthumously with the award was Vladimir K. Zworykin, for "more than a half century of pioneering conception and invention including the first practical tube for picture transmission."

Robert R. Frederick, president of RCA Corp., accepted the award for the late Dr. Zworykin, who was associated with RCA for more than 50 years. This award is voted from time to time to honor those who have made extraordinary contributions to the advancement of television.

Dr. Zworykin died in 1982 at the age of 92. A prolific inventor, he held more than 120 U.S. patents.

The Trustees Award is the National Academy's highest distinction for contributions to the television industry. Past recipients have included such respected industry leaders as Gen. David Sarnoff, William S. Paley, Leonard Goldenson, Dr. Frank Stanton, Peter Goldmark, Walter Cronkite, and the first American astronauts. The late President John F. Kennedy and broadcaster Edward R. Murrow have also been recipients of the Trustees Award.

—Joyce R. Hurwitz