

The 16th Meeting of IEC TC60 — Recording, Subcommittees SC60A — Audio Recording, and SC60B — Video Recording

By Mark S. Hyman

The International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) Technical Committee 60 meetings took place from April 9 through April 14, 1990, in Cesme/Izmir, Turkey. Representatives from Austria, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, France, Germany, Japan, the Netherlands, Turkey, the U.K., and the U.S. attended eight working group sessions spread over six days.

The scope of TC60 states that the group is responsible for the standardization process in the field of audio and video recording and accompanying data in analog and/or digital form on disks, nonperforated magnetic tapes, and optical and solid-state recording media. This includes the characteristics of the media to ensure interchangeability as well as related methods of measurement and terminology.

At the opening meeting, the chairman of TC60, Heinrich Zahn, welcomed the delegates and expressed his appreciation to the Turkish delegation for hosting the week's ensuing sessions. The arrangements for all the activities during the week were handled by the Turkish Standards Institute, and by RAKS, a Turkish manufacturer of video and audio cassettes. A tour of their facilities and various social functions were graciously handled by a number of their representatives.

The U.S. delegation included Frederick Remley, who is completing his tenth year as Chairman of Subcommittee 60B; Koichi Sadashige, Chairman of SC60B Working Group 7; Richard Wilkinson, of Optical Disc Corp.; M. Carlos Kennedy, of Ampex Corp. and Past President of SMPTE; and Mark Hyman, from the engineering staff of SMPTE.

In the U.S., SMPTE provides technical support to the U.S. National Committee (USNC) for IEC regard-

ing video recording topics for SC60B. The American National Standards Institute (ANSI) is secretariat for the USNC. The Audio Engineering Society (AES) performs a similar role for sound recording. A report of SC60A meetings is available from AES.

The four SC60B working groups met for a total of five days covering a variety of topics. Working Group 3 on Measuring Methods for Video Tape Recorders and Tape Properties discussed updating a draft on reference tapes for VTR systems; a proposed standard on measurement methods for broadcast videotape recorders to include mechanical, both analog and digital composite and component electrical and audio measurements. A document on calibration tapes for broadcast VTRs is also under review.

Working Group 5 on Non-Broadcast Video Tape Recorders proposed a draft on still-video floppy magnetic recording systems, methods of measurement on nonbroadcast VTRs for SECAM, characteristics for FM audio recording, 8-mm PCM, 8-mm FM, 8-mm Hi8, S-VHS format and compact VHS cassettes, and the method of measurement for consumer camcorders.

Working Group 7 on Broadcast Video Tape Recorders revised the format document on D-2 Composite Digital Recording incorporating a number of changes as presented by the U.S. delegation. Similar documents on M-II and Type L were also discussed. An amendment to an existing publication on Type C, proposing tightening of track location and width tolerances, was agreed upon. A proposed item of work by the U.K. National Committee for a new document containing information on tape spools for all existing tape widths will be prepared.

Working Group 8 on Non-Broadcast Video Disk Systems proposed a new item of work on method of mea-

surements of parameters characterizing videodisks, as well as the method of measurement of characteristics of reproducing equipment for videodisks. Digital techniques for CD players, videodisks, and video players were also discussed.

With efforts to avoid duplication of work or competition in the same field by different standardizing bodies, Mr. Zahn stated that attracting experts and their sponsoring companies to the work of IEC is essential to the speedier conclusion of work in the technical groups. The question of how to best address this task was posed to the delegates. Under new IEC directives the process of organization of work is divided into new work proposals, circulation of committee drafts, and international member body consideration and approval.

The setting for the six days of meetings was in Cesme, located southwest of Izmir on the Aegean Sea. With the water hinting of the blue and green shades of the Mediterranean Sea, which lies south on the coast, numerous islands, both Turkish and Greek, could be viewed in the distance. Those with a taste for fresh fish and yogurt would find few places that could compare.

A trip to the ancient archaeological site of Ephesus, which is one-third uncovered, outside the city of Kusadasi, left one with a sense of the biblical significance of the countryside. Our hosts from the Turkish Delegation also provided a tour of the RAKS facility, outside the city of Izmir. A comprehensive walk-through of the audio and video duplication and manufacturing plant was viewed with great interest by the delegates.

The work of IEC TC60 will continue by correspondence within the framework of the 16th meeting just completed. The 17th meeting will occur in the summer of 1991, at a location to be announced.