

Engineering News

SMPTE and the Other International Standards Organizations

SMPTE is an international organization based in White Plains, NY, in the United States and is accredited by the American National Standards Institute as a standards developing organization. SMPTE and ANSI/SMPTE standards are in use around the world. Other international standards organizations include the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) all based in Geneva, Switzerland. SMPTE has important relationships with all three as follows:

IEC

The International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) is the leading global organization that prepares and publishes international standards for all electrical, electronic, and related technologies. These serve as a basis for national standardization and as references when drafting international tenders and contracts. Through its members, the IEC promotes international cooperation on all questions of electrotechnical standardization and related matters, such as the assessment of conformity to standards, in the fields of electricity, electronics, and related technologies. The IEC charter embraces all electrotechnologies including electronics, magnetics, and electromagnetics, electroacoustics, multimedia, telecommunication, and energy production and distribution, as well as associated general disciplines such as terminology and symbols, electromagnetic compatibility, measurement and performance, dependability, design and development, safety and the environment.

SMPTE participates in IEC activities through SMPTE Staff Engineer Mark Hyman, who serves as Chairman of IEC/TC 100, Multimedia Systems. Numerous SMPTE documents have become IEC Standards.

ISO

The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) is a worldwide federation of national standards

The following letter to SMPTE Director of Engineering Carlos V. Girod, Jr., P.E., was received on August 25, 2002.

Dear Mr. Girod,

I thank you for the Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers' application for establishing a relationship with the ITU-T under ITU-T Recommendation A.6.

I appreciate very much your interest in ITU-T activities and I have the pleasure of confirming that I approved the A.6 qualification of SMPTE.

The Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group (TSAG) and all ITU-T Study Groups will be informed of this new partnership.

SMPTE has been added to the list of qualified organizations on the ITU-T Website: (<http://www.itu.int/ITU-T/dbase/sdo/qualified.html>).

I am confident that this new collaboration will be highly beneficial for both SMPTE and the ITU-T, and the ITU-T Study Group 16 in particular.

Yours sincerely,

Houlin Zhao

*Director of the Telecommunication
Standardization Bureau*

bodies from more than 140 countries, one from each country. ISO is a non-governmental organization established in 1947. The mission of ISO is to promote the development of standardization and related activities in the world with a view to facilitating the international exchange of goods and services and to developing cooperation in the spheres of intellectual, scientific, technological, and economic activity. ISO's work results in international agreements that are published as International Standards.

SMPTE participates in ISO activities through SMPTE Director of Engineering, Carlos V. Girod, Jr., P.E., who serves as Chairman of ISO/TC 36, Cinematography. Through ANSI, SMPTE serves as the Secretariat for ISO/TC 36 and also as the ANSI-accredited US Technical Advisory Group for ISO/TC 36.

SMPTE serves as registration authority for the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) to register MPEG-2 format identifiers per ISO/IEC 13818-1:2000, Annex O, Registration Procedure for "format_identifier." SMPTE has category A liaisons with ISO/TC 36 and ISO/TC 46, Information and Documentation, and with ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 29, Coding of Audio, Picture, and Multimedia and Hypermedia Information (including MPEG).

ITU

The International Telecommunication Union headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, is an international organization within the United Nations System where governments and the private sector coordinate global telecom networks and services.

The ITU Radiocommunication Sector (ITU-R) plays a vital role in the management of the radio-frequency spectrum and satellite orbits, finite natural resources that are increasingly in demand from a large number of services such as fixed, mobile, broadcasting, amateur, space research, meteorology, global positioning systems, environmental monitoring, and last but not least, those communications services that ensure safety of life at sea and in the skies. ITU-R replaced the International Radio Consultative Committee (CCIR) whose origins go back to 1927.

SMPTE is an ITU-R Sector member in the Regional and Other International Organizations category. A formal agreement is in place between ITU and SMPTE for the exchange of documentation and cross reference of standards in the framework of Resolution ITU-R 9-1 (Liaison and Collaboration with Other Recognized Organizations). This Agreement for Mutual Cooperation and Exchange of Documentation between the International Telecommunication Union

and the Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers dated 21 March 2001 is on the ITU web site at <http://www.itu.int/ITU-R/study-groups/rsg6/smppte/docs/itu-smppte-agreement.pdf>.

The ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) was created on 1 March 1993, replacing the former International Telegraph and Telephone Consultative Committee (CCITT) whose origins go back to 1865. ITU-T's mission is to ensure an efficient and on-time production of high-quality standards covering all fields of telecommunications.

SMPTE has been approved recently for Cooperation and Exchange of Information under Recommendation A.6 and has been added to the list of qualified organizations on the ITU-T website <http://www.itu.int/ITU-T/dbase/sdo/qualified.html>. This applies to the Telecommunication Standardization Advisory Group (TSAG) and all ITU-T Study Groups.

For more information on these organizations, please see their web sites:

<http://www.smppte.org/>

<http://www.iec.ch/>

<http://www.iso.ch/>

<http://www.itu.int/>

—Carlos V. Girod, Jr., P.E.
SMPTE Director of Engineering

Coming in Future Issues of **Motion IMAGING**

- 1080P...Don't Forget the Metadata!
- Digital Transport and Processing in a Digital Cinema Theatre System
- The Importance of Contrast for Rear Projection TV
- Opportunities for Migrating IP Distribution into Station Workflow
- Report on the 144th Technical Conference and Exhibition