

News



SMPTE Engineering Vice-President Peter D. Symes (left) thanks Morgan David, Divisional Director, Sony Broadcast & Professional Research Labs, for serving as host for the five-day series of meetings.

SMPTE Television Engineering Committees Meet in Basingstoke, UK

On September 15-19, members of the SMPTE Television Engineering Committees met in Basingstoke, UK, at the Sony Broadcast & Professional Research Labs. The Television Technology Committees that met included Television Recording and Reproduction Technology (V16); Television Systems Technology (S22); Television Image Technology (I23); Video Compression Technology (C24); Metadata and Wrapper Technology (W25); File Management and Networking Technology (N26); Data Essence Technology (D27); Television Audio Technology (A29); and the Registration and Identification Technology (R30).

The new work item in C24 concerning the Microsoft-introduced Proposed Standard—VC-1 Compressed Video Bitstream Format and Decoding Process—is moving forward. Reference decoder and bitstreams software was made available at the meeting upon completion of an end user license agreement and payment of a \$250.00 U.S. media distribution fee.

An important new work item was proposed for I23 for flat panel displays, which are replacing CRT-type displays in professional environments as well as for consumers.

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



Dave Bancroft chairs the Committee on Image Technology I23.

New ATSC Standard Supports DTV Receiver Upgrades

Members of the Advanced Television Systems Committee, Inc., have approved a new standard that will allow receiver manufacturers to dynamically upgrade their products in the field.

Software Data Download Service, A/97, defines specifications for downloading software to terminal devices using an MPEG-2 transport stream. This new standard provides updates and upgrades of firmware, operating system software, device driver software, native application software, middleware, and other types of software residing in devices, such as consumer DTV receivers.

"A/97 specifies the mechanisms for announcement, signaling and encapsulation for the delivery of a download data service in the ATSC transport, while allowing the specific details of the software download payload to be defined by each manufacturer," said Michael Dolan, chair of the ATSC Specialist Group on Data Broadcasting that developed and maintains the document. The new standard is available for download on the ATSC website, at www.atsc.org/standards.html.

Kodak Expands Its Vision2 Family of Films

Kodak added another option to the palette of color negative films available to cinematographers. Kodak Vision 250D 5205/7205 color negative film is optimized for an exposure index of 250 in natural or artificial 5500°K daylight and also in mixed color temperature situations.

"This latest Vision2 film is designed to provide extraordinary creative latitude for cinematographers who are working in daylight conditions," said Robert Mayson, general manager and vice-president of image capture for the Kodak Entertainment Imaging division.

The new emulsion is available in 35mm, 16mm, and 65mm. Cinematographers who have tested the new motion picture negative have reported that it renders true flesh tones with accurate color reproduction, a broader range of exposure latitude, and enhanced capacity for recording nuanced details in shadows and highlights.

This is the fifth member of the Kodak Vision2 film platform, which was originally introduced in November 2002.

Broadway Video Launches Video Encoding Services

Broadway Video, a major New York post-production house, has launched Broadway Video Encoding Services (BVES), a new division that provides customized digital encoding services—creating virtual "tapeless" environments—for cable and broadcast television networks and program producers and distributors.

BVES launches with a client roster that includes major broadcast and cable television networks. This service enables clients to seamlessly merge conventional materials acquisition, editing, and broadcast functions with the creation of video data files. Data files are rapidly replacing videotape in a wide array of important production and distribution roles. Chief among the potential encoding applications: linear transmission files; video-on-demand (VOD) files; high-definition files, off-line and high-resolution editorial files; desktop screeners; DVDs; and archival quality files.