

Industry News

ATSC Publishes "ACAP" Standard for Interactive Television

The members of the Advanced Television Systems Committee (ATSC) recently approved the Advanced Common Application Platform (ACAP) Standard. The new standard provides consumers with advanced interactive services, while providing content creators, broadcasters, cable operators, and consumer electronics manufacturers with the technical details necessary for the development of interoperable services and products.

ATSC previously published a companion Standard A/96, "Interaction Channel Protocols." Used in combination with forward broadcast download channels from terrestrial, cable, and satellite networks, these protocols provide a complete interactive system. Both the ACAP (A/101) and the Interaction Channel Protocols (A/96) documents are available on the ATSC website at www.atsc.org/standards.html.

PESA and Snell & Wilcox Link Routing and Production Switchers

In a move to give broadcasters greater control over video inputs during live production, PESA and Snell & Wilcox have announced a new interface linking the PESA 3500PRO router control system and the Snell & Wilcox Kahuna SD/HD production switcher. The interface dramatically streamlines operations by allowing the technical director in a production control room to access any input of PESA's Cheetah multirate video router directly from the Kahuna control surface.

The interface between the Kahuna production switcher and the PESA 3500PRO control software, which in turn is connected to the PESA Cheetah router, gives the Kahuna operator direct control over Cheetah inputs. Router source names are transferred over to the production switcher control panel, and a physical connection between the Kahuna processing unit and the Cheetah router allows for the passage of video in either SDI or HD-SDI format.

The fast and direct access delivered by the new interface eliminates time-consuming preselection of sources on multiple router control panels, allowing the TD to focus on a single control surface and manage all available sources much more simply.

Intelsat and PanAmSat to Merge

Intelsat, Ltd., and PanAmSat Holding Corp. announced that the two companies have signed a definitive merger agreement under which Intelsat will acquire PanAmSat for \$3.2 billion. The transaction will create a premier satellite compa-

ny that will be a leader in the digital delivery of video content, the transmission of corporate data, and the provisioning of government communications solutions.

The new company will offer its customers expanded coverage with additional backup satellites, supporting fiber networks and enhanced operational capabilities for the provision of an unparalleled level of services. With an increased focus on developing advanced communications technologies, the company will meet the needs of cable TV programmers, broadcasters, businesses, governments, and consumers worldwide.

Using a combined fleet of 53 satellites, the company will serve customers in more than 220 countries and territories.

Harris Corp. to Acquire Leitch Technology

Harris Corp. has entered into a definitive agreement to acquire all of the shares of Leitch Technology Corp. at an estimated net price of approximately \$450 million.

Leitch is a global leader in providing high-performance video systems for the television broadcast industry, including routers and distribution equipment, signal processing, signal management and monitoring, servers and storage area networks, branding software, and post-production editing systems.

Harris is the worldwide leader in providing digital broadcast technology solutions for global broadcast media markets, including television and radio transmission systems, networking solutions, and enterprise-wide software and media management systems.

The acquisition is to be completed by way of a statutory plan of arrangement and is subject to approval by Leitch shareholders, customary regulatory and court approvals, and other closing conditions.

ADC Acquires Fiber Optic Network Solutions

ADC has announced it has completed its acquisition of Fiber Optic Network Solutions (FONS) Corp., a leading manufacturer of high-performance passive optical components and fiber optic cable packaging, distribution, and connectivity solutions. With the addition of FONS, ADC now becomes one of the largest suppliers of fiber-to-the-x (FTTX) solutions in the U.S. according to proprietary market share estimates.

ADC's OmniReach(R) Solutions are the industry's first platforms designed from the ground up to meet the unique requirements of FTTX networks. By building network infrastructures using ADC's OmniReach Solutions, service providers nationwide are accelerating deployment and maximizing operational efficiency from the central office to the outside plant. Through its Professional Services organization, ADC also provides a suite of service solutions to plan, deploy, and maintain FTTX networks.

Avid Completes Acquisition of Pinnacle Systems

Avid Technology, Inc., has completed its acquisition of Pinnacle Systems, Inc. With the integration process under-

way, Pinnacle's broadcast offerings, including the Deko on-air graphics system and the MediaStream playout server, will be integrated into the Avid Video division, which will remain headquartered in Tewksbury, MA. Avid will also continue to develop the Pinnacle Liquid family, leveraging it across products and markets served by both the Avid Video and Consumer divisions.

The new Consumer division, which will retain the Pinnacle Systems name and be headquartered in Mountain View, CA, will house Pinnacle's consumer products, including Pinnacle Studio and other TV viewing products.

Jeff Hastings, former chief operating officer of M-Audio, which Avid acquired in August of 2004, will assume the position of vice-president and general manager of the new Pinnacle Systems division. Before his time at M-Audio, Hastings held a range of executive positions at consumer technology companies, including Rio Audio, where he served as president, as well as Sonic Blue and ReplayTV.

20th Annual ASC Outstanding Achievement Awards Slated for February 26

The 20th Annual American Society of Cinematographers (ASC) Awards for Outstanding Achievement in Cinematography will be held on February 26, 2006, at the Central Plaza Hotel. Nominees for Outstanding Achievement Awards for feature films released in 2005 will be announced on January 11. ASC will unveil nominees in the narrative television competition on January 18. The television categories are for an episode of a series and TV movies/miniseries/pilots that aired on network and pay-per-view/cable channels in 2005.

The organization will also present Lifetime International Achievement awards to cinematographers whose distinguished bodies of work have earned the respect of their peers. Board of Governors and Presidents Awards will be presented to individuals who have made exceptional contributions to advancing the art of filmmaking, and the Heritage Award will be given to a deserving student.

17 Scientific Achievements in Competition for 78th Academy Awards

The Scientific and Technical Awards Committee of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences has announced that seventeen scientific and technical achiev-

ments have been selected for the 78th Academy Awards consideration.

The following methods or devices are being considered: Sparrow Head, Doggicam Systems; High-Speed Pneumatic Accelerator, Jeff Haberstad; Precision Stunt Airbag, Precision Stunt Safety Specialists; Telescoping Scissor Camera Crane, Filmotechnic; Gyrostabilized Autorobot/Russian Arm Camera Crane, Filmotechnic; Traveling Cascade Camera Crane, Filmotechnic; Cablecam's Multi-Axis Systems, Cablecam International, Inc.; Syflex—The Cloth Simulator, Syflex, LLC; Cloth Simulation for Film, Pixar Animation Studios; ILM: Image Based Modeling, ILM Light & Magic; Ambient Environment Lighting, Industrial Light & Magic; Subdivision Surfaces in Motion Picture Production, Pixar Animation Studios; Rosetta Separations—Digital YCM Masters for Digital Film Preservation, Pacific Title and Art Studio; Realtime Answer Print System, Technicolor; HFC Brumagic MPST Densitometer, Hollywood Film Co.; Cineflux Premiere Projection Lenses; Schneider Optics, Inc.; Aerohead Remote Camera Head and J-Viz Pre-Visualization System, Aerohead LLC.

The committee will meet on Wednesday, December 7, to vote on recommendations to the Academy's Board of Governors, which will make final awards decisions. The Scientific Awards will be presented at the Beverly Hilton Hotel in Beverly Hills, on Saturday, February 18, 2006.



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