

News

It's a Great Deal!

BKSTS and SMPTE have shared a close relationship for around 70 years, and these days it is amusing to look back at how, as happens in the best of families, way back in the 1930s, what had been the British section of the SMPTE broke away after a disagreement and formed the BKSTS. Since then, of course, both organizations have worked closely together, SMPTE becoming very strong on technical standards and the BKSTS majoring on training initiatives, and we have a co-operation agreement covering the selling of merchandise, access to Conferences & Exhibitions and the reproduction of published articles in each others journals.

BKSTS Past President Lawrie Read, a Governor of SMPTE, had long cherished a dream that the two Societies might offer joint membership, and during his term in office and afterwards he used his diplomatic skills and undoubted powers of persuasion to drive the suggestion forward in both communities. After many discussions this initiative reached fruition in April 2005 as SMPTE and BKSTS announced that they are offering joint membership to existing and new members of both organizations. The Joint Membership deal will confer all applicable benefits to those members who take advantage of the dual membership deal.

At the signing of the agreement, Martyn Hurd, BKSTS President, and Ed Hobson, SMPTE President, agreed that the offer to members of both Societies of a joint membership makes a lot of sense, highlighting the commonalities between BKSTS and SMPTE, and forging a stronger relationship between the two organizations. It is hoped that the new agreement, which will be reviewed after a five-year period to judge the value and success of its operation, will attract new members to both Societies, as well as strengthen ties between the two organizations and increase the spirit and practice of international co-operation within the work of both organizations.

The SMPTE/BKSTS Joint Membership program is being made available on both sides of the Atlantic, with members who join BKSTS being offered SMPTE membership, and vice-versa. Those who want to take advantage of the Joint Membership and the significant discount on subscriptions that it offers will be able to do so when becoming members of either Society, or when renewing their current membership. Membership information about both organizations can be found on their websites at www.smpte.org and www.bksts.com.

(Courtesy of Image Technology Magazine, May 2005, p. 4.)



BKSTS



THE
MOVING
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SOCIETY



Presidents Martyn Hurd and Edward Hobson sign the historic joint membership agreement.

U.S. Patent Granted to Ujwal Nirgudkar

Ujwal Nirgudkar was granted a U.S. Patent (Patent No. 6,849,366 issued on Feb. 1, 2005) for his innovative technology on Online Quality Control of Motion Picture Film Processing. Nirgudkar, the first resident of India to receive a U.S. patent in motion picture technology, first presented this technology at the 144th Technical Conference in Pasadena, CA, in Oct. 2002.

The new technology will aid cinematographers in quality control of motion picture film processing by applying a new system sensitometric wedge between the perforations (an area which does not get exposed in the camera) of the film. This will lower the cost of quality control and benefit both cinematographers and motion picture laboratories by giving the actual condition of film processing when camera negatives are being processed, to detect problems and correct them at the earliest stage, preventing further damage to the processed negative. The new sensitometry data will be available online as negatives come out of the drying cabinet, therefore corrective action can be taken automatically and much faster than the existing system.

Nirgudkar is general manager-technical, at Patel India Distributors PVT, Ltd. He has presented three technical papers at SMPTE Technical Conferences in New York and Pasadena and also represents India on the SMPTE Engineering Committees on Motion Picture Film (F2) and Laboratory Technology (L6).

The Digital Cinematography Award goes to Clipster

The Cinematography Premiere Product Award at NAB 2005 went to the digital intermediate (DI) system Clipster by Digital Video Systems. Given by the *Digital Cinematography* magazine, the award recognizes outstanding achievements in the development of digital video technology.

Provided with a wide range of new software features Clipster has become an all-encompassing film conforming and finishing system. In its version 2.0, it offers secondary color correction, realtime color management, and an extensive number of effects and is a 4k-capable system—one of only a few in the market for DI systems. The system records

and plays out data in any format, resolution, bit-depth, color space, or file type, all in realtime without conversion. The visual effects package now includes primary and secondary color correction, pan-and-scan, rotation, flip/flop, cropping and transitions in realtime. In addition, a huge range of third party effects are supported by the OpenFX plug-in interface.

Academy Mails Sci-Tech Requests for 78th Academy Awards

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences officially launched the 78th Annual Academy Awards season by mailing over 850 application request forms to the scientific and technical communities in the U.S. and abroad.

Corporations and individuals, including past winners, specializing in science and technology in film will have an opportunity to be considered for an award in those areas. In order to be considered, achievements must show exceptional merit and evidence of having provided significant advances in the production of motion pictures. Technologies and achievements need not be invented within the past year.

Technical advances submitted to the Scientific and Technical Awards Committee will be evaluated by both the main committee and sub-committees comprised of distinguished engineers, scientists, and craftspersons before being recommended to the Academy's Board of Governors for award consideration.

The application-filing deadline is Monday, August 1. For additional information, visit the Academy website at www.oscars.org.

Industry's First Handheld TV Analyzer for Broadcast Applications Wins Three Awards

Rohde & Schwarz's FSH3-TV—the world's first handheld TV analyzer—received top recognition from Broadcast Engineering with a Pick Hit, TV Technology with a STAR (Superior Technology Award Recipient), and Digital TV/Television Broadcast with a Top Innovation.

The compact and portable unit, capable of processing both analog and digital TV signals, is ideal for mobile use, as well as servicing new installations and maintaining or repairing TV cable network or transmitter components. The R&S FSH3-TV combines the functions and characteristics of a full-featured spectrum analyzer with the functionalities of a TV test receiver enabling all measurements essential in field to be performed with only one instrument. In addition, the robust and weatherproof R&S FSH3-TV can be powered from its NiMH battery.

New Broadband Standard from ITU Gives 10x ADSL Speeds

The International Telecommunications Union (ITU-T) has completed the specifications necessary for telecoms operators around the world to offer a "super" triple play of video, internet, and voice services.

The ITU-T Recommendation for very-high-bit-rate digital subscriber line 2 (VDSL2) will allow operators worldwide to

compete with cable and satellite operators by offering services such as high-definition TV (HDTV), video-on-demand, videoconferencing, high-speed internet access, and advanced voice services including VoIP, over a standard copper telephone cable.

VDSL2 will offer consumers up to 100 Mbits/sec up and downstream, a massive ten-fold increase over the more common ADSL. Essentially, it allows so-called "fibre-extension" bringing fibre like bandwidth to premises not directly connected to the fibre-optic segment of a telecoms company's network.

As well as addressing increasing consumer demands, VDSL2 offers telecom carriers a solution that promises to be interoperable with the ADSL kit that many operators already have in place. This interoperability will make the migration of customers to VDSL2 much simpler. Another important feature of VDSL2 is that it will work in both legacy ATM networks and next-generation IP-based networks.



Obituaries

Christin Hardman Creignou passed away on May 24, 2005, at age 53.

Creignou had a long career in television video production, including video production and editing, product development, equipment manufacturing, training and education. She worked as a lead video editor for "The Barney Miller Show" for five years and as a production manager for the Videography Co. She also worked at various Bay Area video venues, including as an editor at *Post* magazine and as a CMX executive. She was founder and CEO of Ciela, Inc. a California corporation providing productization services to R & D departments of high-tech companies in Silicon Valley.

Creignou wrote extensively for technical publications and served on several industry technical standards committees. She became a manager of the San Francisco Section in 1991 and actively participated in the 1992 SF Winter Conference. Creignou was also active in the Palo Alto Junior League in California, where she was co-founder of a media task force that won an international award for a video production on homeless teens.

Creignou later moved to St. Petersburg, FL, and became an active member of the St. Petersburg Junior League, where she was awarded the Mailande Holland Barton Award in a ceremony on May 17.

Creignou's survivors include her husband of 22 years, Jean-Paul Creignou, and two brothers, Tom and Jon Hardman.

Charles W. Gray, a Life Member, passed away on April 9, 2005, at age 83.

SMPTÉ Life Member **Richard S. Milbauer** has passed away. A member for more than 50 years, Milbauer was 79 years old.