

Message from the President

Edward P. Hobson



Whereas some believe summer to be a “down time,” at SMPTE, summers are busy, full of activity, and industrious, and this work and bustle is global in its scope and spectrum. Much of this work can be found within the pages of this very issue of the *Motion Imaging Journal*.

In July, we had Engineering Committee meetings in Sydney, Australia, bringing standards work to the constituencies, and underscoring SMPTE as a worldwide organization. A lot of work was conducted during the five days of meetings, which included topics like MXF, lip sync, DC-28, and a host of burgeoning technologies. More can be read about the engineering meetings on page (351). I’d like to personally thank the Australian Film Television & Radio School in New South Wales for hosting the meetings, and to whom we are most grateful.

The Engineering Meetings were scheduled to coincide with SMPTE Australia’s Conference and Exhibition. The title of this year’s conference was “Working Smarter—Better Technology, Better Business,” referring to the broadcast industry’s focus on the economics of making informed buying decisions in a highly competitive global market. This three-day event also included an exhibit hall with well over 100 exhibitors, with products reflecting the latest in motion imaging technologies and services. Check out page (318) for more on the conference. My personal thanks as well to John Maizels, Gerry Brooks, and the entire Australia Section for their terrific work in organizing the conference and exhibition.

If you are reading this at IBC, SMPTE is participating in three important events during IBC. On Friday I have the honor of being the Theme Day producer for High-Definition Theme Day at the Conference. We have four sessions and a keynote planned. On Saturday, SMPTE and IEEE are conducting a tutorial on HD standards, and on Monday, Digital Cinema Day, Wendy Aylsworth and DC-28 members will contribute to that day’s sessions.

Speaking of conferences, now is the time for you to start planning your attendance at the SMPTE Technical Conference and Exhibition in New York City, which is only a few short months away. With topics on HDTV Newsgathering, Storage, Media Infrastructure, Digital Imaging and Content Protection, and more, this conference is a must, for you to stay ahead of the game, and our exhibitor list grows daily. For more information about what we have in store, check out page (308). Also, please mark your date books for our second VidTrans and SMPTE Advanced Motion Imaging Conference. Last year’s conference was so successful, we’re doing it again. This combined, dynamic, and top-notch conference provides attendees with information on the latest advances in Motion Imaging and Video Transport Services, and highlights the ever-broadening connectivity between the two industries. The VidTrans/SMPTE Conference will be held at the Renaissance Hollywood Hotel in Los Angeles, January 29 to February 1, 2006.

SMPTE is also going to be taking part in a major, two-day High-Definition event sponsored by our friends at BKSTS. A highly qualified group of speakers are expected, with representation from the U.K., the U.S., and Europe. Scheduled for February 2006, this two-day event will provide a forum for discussion and debate on the technological challenges of high-definition. The conference will address both the basics of HD, as well as the less obvious issues that will impact the implementation of high-definition television. More information will be appearing on BKSTS’s website, www.bksts.com, and here in the *SMPTE Motion Imaging Journal*.

SMPTE’s history is deep and wide, and sometimes its historical information pops up under very interesting circumstances. A few months ago, former SMPTE President Stan Baron was in the process of cleaning out some old files of his, and came across materials he had assembled relating to a patent dispute over the origins of the 27 MHz, 4:2:2 component digital television system standard. Reviewing the documents, Stan realized that 2005 is the 25th Anniversary of the development of the 4:2:2 component, and he believed that the history of its beginnings might be of interest to the *Journal’s* readers. We thought so, too, and jumped at the chance when Stan offered to write an article for the *Journal*. Stan quickly went to work, and this fascinating piece of SMPTE history can be found on page (327). Don’t miss it!

Lastly, as SMPTE continues to be a catalyst to progress, modernity, and technology, it has been a belief that for sometime now, SMPTE’s headquarters building in White Plains, New York, was sorely outdated, and in need of too much renovation to bring it up to what would be fitting for an organization on the cutting-edge. With that said, I’m happy to report that SMPTE Headquarters has relocated to a new building in White Plains, with all the modern and upgraded features lacking in the old building. Please change your address book to reflect SMPTE Headquarters’ new address: 3 Barker Avenue, White Plains, NY 10601. Our telephone number remains the same: 914-761-1100. If you are going to be in the White Plains area, please stop by. The headquarters is conveniently located a short block’s walk from the White Plains Metro North train station.