

News

SMPTTE Television Engineering Standards Committees Meet in Atlanta

The second round of 2007 engineering standards meetings were held in Atlanta, GA, during the week of June 4-8, 2007. Hosted by Turner Entertainment Networks, the event included over 80 representatives of manufacturers and users.

Topics addressed, included those in the (I23) Television Image Technology committee, which has ongoing work relating to safe title and safe action including the extraction of 4 x 3 from 16 x 9. The committee meetings also included discussion on issues relating to display technologies, and a presentation on ultra-high-definition television by NHK.

The File Management and Networking Technology (N26) committee continues work on the revision of SMPTE 125M: Component Video Signal Coding, and a revision of SMPTE 425: 3 Gbit/sec Signal Data Serial Interface for Source Image Format Mapping. The committee has completed two documents SMPTE 2022-1: Forward Error Correction for Real-Time Video/Audio Transport over IP Networks, and SMPTE 2022-2: Unidirectional Transport of Constant Bit Rate MPEG-2 Transport Streams Over IP Networks.

The Television Systems Technology (S22) committee addressed comments on a draft document for a protocol for exchange of data among broadcast systems, such as traffic program management automation and content distribution. The Ad Hoc Group on Image Formatting discussed the status of draft documents on active format description and bar data and pan and scan information.

All committees discussed the annual periodic review of existing SMPTE standards, recommended practices, and engineering guidelines.

The next meetings will held on September 13-17 at the Institut National de l'Audiovisuel (INA) in Paris, France.

—Mark S. Hyman

VCI Solutions' Automation and Traffic Systems to Support the New SMPTE BXF Standard

VCI Solutions, supplier of media revenue solutions for the broadcast and cable industry, announced that their new autoXe MC automation system and the next Orion business system release, both support the new

SMPTTE S22-10 Broadcast eXchange Format (BXF). VCI Solutions has been actively involved and committed to bringing this new standard to fruition, setting a cross-system communication guideline for traffic, automation, program management, and content delivery systems to talk to each other.

The BXF standard provides a better way to operate facilities seamlessly, replacing many of the proprietary interfaces currently being used. It includes data elements that are common to many systems, and addresses communication, transport, and security issues. The implementation of this new standard will help accelerate and facilitate data-driven workflow processes. All systems, including traffic and automation, will be working from the same metadata, communicating dynamically. Broadcast organizations utilizing this new technology will have greater agility by using service-oriented, standards-based systems to leverage their content assets.

Video Products Group Optimizes DS3 Capacity

Video Products Group, Inc., (VPG) has developed a solution that enables broadcasters and telecomm service providers to double the HD capacity of their DS3 connections. In most implementations of DS3, only about 38 to 39 Mbits/sec of the protocol's 45 Mbit/sec line rate is available as usable bandwidth. From 6 to 7 Mbits/sec are dedicated to overhead data. Since a high-definition ATSC stream requires 19.4 Mbits/sec, only one HD channel will fit into a DS3 pipe. In contrast, technology from VPG reduces DS3 overhead requirements by over 65%, increasing DS3 usable bandwidth to 43 Mbits/sec. The increased capacity can support two high-definition transport streams, with an additional 4 Mbits/sec available in another ASI port for other uses.

VPG's VS192 **SMPTE-310** to DVB-ASI converter card accepts two independent HD transmission streams at 19.39 Mbits/sec, and transmits two DVB-ASI channels at 270 Mbits/sec. ASI output from the VS192 can be configured as electrical or optical signals. In turn, DVB-ASI signals can be multiplexed into DS3 with the VPG9345 card, which supports DVB validity checking and Reed-Solomon Forward Error Checking.