



REPORT FROM THE

STANDARDS VICE PRESIDENT



By Alan Lamshead

100 Years of SMPTE Standards

At the start of each new year, it is important to look back on our accomplishments, and shortcomings, and to plan ahead for the future. As we enter 2016, we are not only looking back on the past year, but the past 100 years of SMPTE Standards!

Standards have been an integral part of SMPTE since it started 100 years ago. At the inception of the Society, in 1916, there was no standardization in the motion imaging industry. The Society's founders knew that in order for the industry to succeed, Standards needed to be developed and widely used to promote interoperability of equipment from different manufacturers. As the film industry grew through the first part of the 20th century, so did the challenges and needs for standardization. With the expansion of the Society to include Television in the 1950s, there was a critical need for standardization to permit the nascent electronic media technology to flourish and become widely adopted across the globe. At the close of the 20th century, with the advent of digital cinema, there was a huge push once again for Standards for the new digital method of producing and exhibiting content in the cinema.

As we look ahead into the 21st century, the need for Standards today is greater than ever, with a completely new group of technologies such as delivery of media over IP networks, high dynamic range, immersive audio, to name just a few.

In 2015, SMPTE published 20 new Standards, 2 new Recommended Practices and 4 new Registered Disclosure Documents, in addition to 20 revisions to existing engineering documents. The SMPTE Standards community has been busy! But this SMPTE Standards work is totally dependent on the active involvement from a host of SMPTE members to do the work. There are currently more than 600 members in the SMPTE Standards community (about 10% of the total SMPTE membership), representing 23 different countries. Sixty to 80 members regularly attend the quarterly Standards meetings in person, in addition to about the same number who participate remotely. In addition, there are a host of smaller Standards drafting groups that do their real work between the quarterly meetings. The quarterly meeting outcome reports are always posted on the SMPTE website in order to report publicly on SMPTE Standards activities. You can download the December meeting outcome report here. (<https://www.smpte.org/standards/engineering-committees>)

Standards is one of the three pillars of SMPTE, along with Education and Membership. We are always looking for more active involvement of SMPTE members in Standards. These are exciting times for the Society and for our industry as a whole. As I begin my second term as your Standards Vice President, I want to encourage more of you to become involved in the Standards process.

Upcoming Standards Meetings

29 February - 3 March 2016 Santa Clara, CA, USA

7-10 June 2016 New York, NY, USA

14-17 September 2016 Geneva, Switzerland

5-9 December 2016 Burbank, CA, USA