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Introduction to the SMPTE Technology Committee Reports

The SMPTE progress report summarizes the key activities of the Society's Technology Committees, as well as the Standards Committee and other subgroups. The contents of this 2016 report demonstrate that there has been a lot of activity in the Standards Community, with a host of standards documents published in the past year.

The SMPTE Standards Committee is comprised of the chairs of each of the Technology Committees as well as several invited members. This committee oversees all the Society's Technology Committees, ensuring that the standards process is open and fair to all. One of the ongoing tasks of the Standards Committee is to review our processes and seek to streamline them whenever possible. To this end, the Standards Committee has been working on further refinements to the Standards Administrative Guidelines. The scope for each of the Technology Committees is listed on the SMPTE website (https://www.smpte.org/standards/engineering-committees).

This past year the Technology committees have met face-to-face four times: September in Paris, France-hosted by Commission Supérieure Technique de l'Image et du Son (CST) and Eutelsat; December in Atlanta, GA, USA - hosted by Turner Broadcasting; March in Santa Clara, California, USA - hosted by Arista Networks; and June in New York, NY, USA - hosted by CBS. In each case, these meetings are hosted by sponsoring companies who provide the venue and provide hospitality. On average there are usually 60 to 80 who meet in person, as well as many more who join remotely. On behalf of the Society, I would like to thank our hosts and sponsors, without which the block standards meetings would not be possible. In addition to the face-to-face meetings, the various sub-groups meet regularly by electronic means to conduct their business. Over 790 Society members (about 13% or those eligible) are involved in SMPTE Standards activities, with about 120 having joined the Standards Community in the last year. During the past year over 35 standards documents have been published, with many more currently in the committees. Shortly after each of the face-to-face meeting cycles, an outcome report is published (https://www.smpte.org/standards/meeting-reports) that allows the industry to track the progress of SMPTE standards activities.

SMPTE is involved in the Joint Task Force for Networked Media (JT-NM) in collaboration with the European Broadcast Union (EBU), and the Video Services Forum (VSF). In September 2015, the JT-NM published the JT-NM Reference Architecture (RA) v1.0 document; a collection of models, best practices, and frameworks intended to enable interoperability in networked media systems. (available from the SMPTE website https://www.smpte.org/standards/reports) In March 2016, the JT-NM Admin committee decided to add the Advanced Media Workflow Association (AMWA) to the list of sponsors, and at NAB 2016 the JT-NM announced the start of Phase 3. The goals of Phase 3 are to stimulate and align the different ongoing activities around the development of open standards and specifications for IP interoperability.

In the past 12 months, SMPTE has published 2 Study Group reports. Each of these reports is available on the SMPTE website (https://www.smpte.org/standards/reports). Following is a brief description of the work of these three study groups.

In September 2015, SMPTE published the Study Group report On High Dynamic Range (HDR) Ecosystem. The task of this Study Group was to identify the specific parameters and respective ranges that constitute "High Dynamic Range" (HDR). Based on the agreed definitions, review the impact to form a complete ecosystem for the creation, delivery and playback of HDR content across both linear and home entertainment distribution platforms. The Study Group provided a report on existing standards which are impacted, identifying standards gaps which should be addressed, and recommendation on methodology and priority.

In December of 2015, SMPTE published the Study Group report on UMID Applications in MXF and Streaming Media. The UMID, or Unique Material IDentifier, is the SMPTE standard unique identifier of an audiovisual material. As a mandatory component of an MXF file, the UMID has been widely spread in the Media & Entertainment (M&E) industry by using the MXF file as a vehicle. But it has been practically useless in practice so far because of lack of industry standard technologies called UMID Application Principles and UMID Resolution Protocol. In this study report, based on those standard technologies, the UMID applications specifically for the MXF technology are discussed.

The following detailed reports from each of the Technology committees give only the highlights of the standards work that has been undertaken by the Society in the past 12 months. I trust that you will find them not only informative but that they may spark your interest to participate in this vital pillar of our Society. SMPTE

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