Ohio
December 2021

The Section Meeting was held on 9 December at the WCMH Television transmission plant in Columbus, in conjunction with the local Society of Broadcast Engineers-Chapter 52. Fifty members and guests were shown a chronological timeline of the events leading up to and including the completion of their transmitter installation by Comark field staff and WCMH engineers. Their new state-of-the-art transmitter is now on the air with ATSC 1.0 VSB signaling but can easily be upgraded to ATSC 3.0, which includes the required orthogonal frequency-division multiplexing (OFDM) signaling in less than half-day. Ken McCrimmon, WCMH's chief engineer, began his slide presentation by showing photographs of the various phases involved in the project's successful installation and completion. He then listed the many broadcast engineering firsts presented to the Columbus TV market over the years from their former call letters WLW-C (channels 3 then 4) and later WCMH, including: first TV station on the air in Columbus, first NBC-compatible color broadcast on 1 January 1954 with the Tournament of Roses Parade, first WLW regional color broadcasts in August 1957, first local origination color broadcasts in 1960, and first stereo audio NBC passthrough and local origination broadcasts in July 1985, with the MLB All Star baseball game coverage from NBC. He also stated that with the installation of the TV station's new Comark broadcast transmitter, WCMH is now future-proof for many years!

Michael Smith, Comark customer service field engineer, gave a detailed breakdown of the many unique and advanced component and signal-monitoring features included in their new transmitter. The meeting attendees then proceeded to the main transmission equipment room, where McCrimmon and Smith provided a comprehensive demonstration of the displays available, both locally and remotely for all of the broadcast transmitter engineers to monitor, in order to ensure that their broadcast TV signals are on the air and stay on the air! The attendees and the transmitter engineering staff engaged in a lively Q&A session, prior to the meeting's adjournment.

—Gene Batey
Secretary/Treasurer

Various members/guests on the new WCMH Television transmitter plant tour in Columbus.


Ken McCrimmon, WCMH Television chief engineer, going over the recent installation details of the station's new future-proof broadcast transmitter in Columbus.

In the center: Ken McCrimmon, WCMH Television chief engineer, conducting the transmitter plant tour in Columbus.

Comark customer service field engineer, Michael Smith, demonstrating the various monitoring display features available on the new WCMH transmitter recently installed in the Columbus plant.

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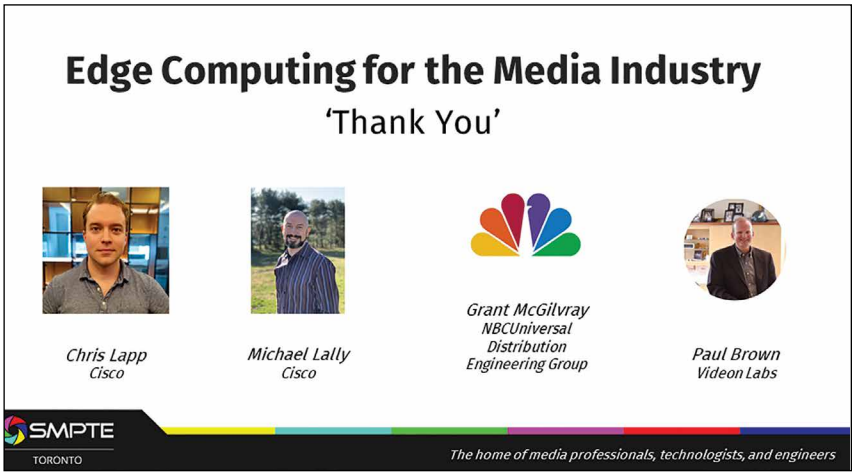
Toronto
October 2021

The Section meeting on 19 October was a virtual event, with 45 attendees. Presenters Gary Adcock, Studio37 Inc., and Andy Jarosz, LOLED Virtual Inc. joined from the U.S. because gatherings of this size are still not permitted in Ontario, Canada. The meeting was held in the format of a talk show, with presenters discussing the myths surrounding virtual production. They talked about cost, ease of adoption, LED screens technology and its use, production speed, the pros and cons of its use for various media industry segments, as well as their previous experience on those topics. A Q&A session followed the presentations. The entire meeting can be viewed on the Toronto Section YouTube channel: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dDlPSqgIOpc

—Silvino Almeida
Manager-at-Large

Presenter slide from the Toronto Section's October virtual event.



Presenter slide from the Toronto Section's November virtual event.

Toronto
November 2021

The virtual meeting on 23 November was titled, "Edge Computing for the Media Industry," Chris Lapp and Michael Lally from Cisco, began the presentations, covering users, devices, networks, applications, and data security. They also discussed layers, functions, storage, and responses. Different core processors and their ideal applications were introduced, as there is no one-size-fits-all solution available today (e.g., Sparc, Intel, Nvidia, IBM, Qualcomm). Edge use cases in media were presented with a focus on latency, security, insights, and enhancements. ATSC 3.0 and cord cutting were two key contributions discussed for the growth of edge computing. Popular media implementations include content creation, content, distribution, QoE, and analytics. Key deployment considerations such as use cases, cost, environment, and frameworks were also presented.

Grant McGilvray, NBCUniversal, discussed how NBC provided its customers with localized ultrahigh-definition (UHD) simulcasts for the Tokyo Olympics. He talked about how broadcasters are becoming more involved in 4K distribution to compete with over-the-top (OTT) providers and provided some examples of NBC productions from the past and the future. Look-up tables for production conversion were discussed in the context of down-converting 4K while still looking good in HDR and SDR. He detailed the current NBC HD linear distribution infrastructure, and what they did to get to UHD distribution (i.e., upconversion workflows and centralizing distribution). Edge computing for NBC lies mainly with encoding and decoding 35 Mb/s and aids in the protection of localization.

Paul Brown, Video Labs, began his presentation by discussing the various data points for live video—engagement, purchasing, watching, and so on, as well as the explosive growth of live video streaming. Live video is now active rather than passive. Brown talked about traditional live video workflows in the cloud, which requires time, money, and multiple vendors. A video compute platform will greatly reduce all of the aforementioned. Brown also demonstrated how the introduction of edge computing power has altered live streaming workflows.

— Jaime Caeiro
Section Manager

The Toronto Section's December holiday outing event at Koerner Hall, Royal Conservatory of Music.

Toronto
December 2021

The Toronto Section decided to do something different for its December meeting. Rather than being educated by technical representatives, the Section decided to get some entertainment value and much needed cultural infusion after being alone for so long. The Different Holiday Concert was a wonderful way to bring together SMPTE members for the first time in over a year and a half. "To All a Good Night" featured music by Stevie Wonder, John Prine, Stephen Colbert, and Elvis Costello, as well as Duke Ellington's Nutcracker Suite. Artists included Jackie Richardson, Jessica Mitchell, Liam Russell, David Wall, and Tom Wilson.

This was an amazing outing. SMPTE Toronto expresses gratitude to the Koerner Hall staff for putting on such a momentous event.

—Tony Meerakker
Section Chair