

Technical Standards Committee Meeting Minutes
7 June 1996
Irving, TX

Bill Groener, Acting Chair
Karl G. Ruling, Acting Secretary
In attendance: Anne Valentino
Karl Ruling
Steve Carlson
Paul Vincent
Neil Huff
Eric Tishman
Ted Paget, visiting guest
Jack Suesse
Lori Rubinstein
Colin Waters
Bill Groener
Frank Stewart
George Sabbi, via speakerphone

The meeting was called to order by Bill Groener at 1:15pm at the Dallas/Ft. Worth Airport Marriott.

1.0 Approval of Agenda

- Revised with the addition of the following items:
- 3.2.4 P&P document review
- 5.1 Ethernet protocol
- 5.2 Update on UL
- 5.3 USITT Pin Connector Standard
- Existing 5.1, Report from TSC Steering Committee renumbered as 5.4

2.0 Minutes of March 13, 1996 revised.

"Meet" in 3.1.2.1 changed to "met," and 4.1.5 added, referring to a discussion at the meeting of Olaf Soot's proposal regarding ESTA adopting the USITT rigging standards effort. Paul Vincent moved, Jack Suesse seconded acceptance of revised minutes. Passed.

3.0 Old Business

3.1 ESTA Treasurer's report.

See appended "TSC 1996 Budget Summation Sheet" from Lori Rubinstein, and TSC budget sheets from Frank Stewart. Groener explained that the income has not come

in as had been projected, but that ESTA will have enough money.

3.1.2 Bill Groener reviewed the contributions by companies toward the Technical Standards Committee.

Additional contacts with companies will be made as follows:

- Ed Arends of EDI will be contacted tomorrow at WG meeting by Steve Carlson.
- Peter Johansen of Martin Professional will be contacted by Karl Ruling and also Steve Carlson. Johansen was willing to contribute if there is some movement on an automated light protocol. Ruling's task will be to see what Johansen feels ESTA should be doing. Carlson's will be to ask for money. There will be, cannot be any "quid pro quo."
- Colortran/NSI to be contacted by Anne Valentino
- Steve Terry will contact ETC.
- Rubinstein will talk to Jackie Tien of Intertec.
- Colin Waters will talk to LSD.

Paul Vincent mentioned the need to contact other organizations that might support our work. Paul Vincent also reported that Joe Tawil (Great American Market) is adamant on not providing additional funding.

3.1.3 Groener asked if someone can give to a particular project? Paul Vincent answered that our legal counsel recommends not accepting earmarked funding, because it would look like buying influence in the technical standards project. The TSC can accept funds for TSC work in general.

3.2 Technical Standards Manager report.

Phone forwarding from Ralph Weber's number is to be stopped. George Sabbi will send a thank you note to Ralph.

3.2.1 Public Review Documents

3.2.1.1 Wire Rope Ladder

The committee is requesting that Ruling and Mike Garl move the it forward so it is done by LDI in November.

3.2.1.2 Ethernet

Control Protocols working group is planning to resolve comments and then move to either letter ballot or, if a supermajority present, by vote tomorrow. Then on to TSC. Second public review not expected. The intent will be to have this available by LDI in November.

Both the above documents (the Wire Rope Standard and the Ethernet Cabling recommended practice) will be worked on by the respective working groups, who will resolve the comments received. They will then pass them on to the TSC, who will then pass them on to the Board-- assuming they are approved by the TSC. The TSC will vote by letter ballot, and the Board will be requested to vote by letter ballot rather than waiting until the next meeting. This is to get the documents done by LDI96. I will make the request of the Board. Decided by consensus.

Ethernet book will have 8.5 x 11.

3.2.2 Introduction to Modern Atmospherics

3.2.2.1 Sales

Lori told of Florian von Hofen's request to translate and publish the fog and smoke book while giving us a licensing fee. Lori, George, and I will set the licensing fee after consulting with David Rodgers. Carlos Ruling and a German-speaking member of ESTA will review Florian's text, and alert us if the tone seems inappropriate or damaging to ESTA's. Note that VPLT translated the document from the original English, and that the book is being published by VPLT under license. Universal acclamation.

We will take a quarter page ad in TD&T promoting the book, and directing readers to dealers. Universal acclamation.

Lori and I will discuss PLASA buying in bulk, and reselling with Tony Douglas-Beveridge.

3.2.3 ANSI progress report

3.2.4 P&P Document Review

Motion by Vincent, seconded by Waters, and approved unanimously to send version 2.5 of the P&P and the revised cover letter to the board.

4.0 Working Group reports

4.1 Rigging.

Mike Garl was not present, but Rubinstein brought up the matter of a truss company using ESTA's name in promotional material, claiming that ESTA was adopting the truss company's standard. Extended correspondence between the manufacturer and ESTA's legal counsel when the legal counsel asked the company to stop has run up legal fees. Rubinstein suggested requiring ESTA members to agree not to use the ESTA name except as a logo on promotional material, and amending the rules to provide for ousting members who do not abide by them.

Rubinstein also asked if there was interest in a training session about how to run meetings. The idea was positively received.

4.2 Control Protocols

Steve Carlson announced the group is working on addendum to the Ethernet document that will be about 100Mb/sec Ethernet cabling. It will lay out a cabling plan that will support all the major systems vying for dominance.

The DMX moving light effort has not had much activity recently.

Carlson reported on a proposal to develop a common protocol running on fast Ethernet. Carlson wanted to know if ESTA wanted to undertake this project. The consensus was yes.

4.3 Fog and Smoke

Eric Tishman reported that the RFQ for a survey of the literature on glycol inhalation was ready. Vincent moved, Carlson seconded to accept the RFQ. Unanimous. The RFQ will be sent out by Ruling.

Funding for the glycol literature search has been set at up to \$10,000. Valentino moved that ESTA add two line items to budget: one for expense for the study, and one line for income from F&S booklet. Waters

seconded. We will assign a \$5,000 figure to that study line for this year (the other \$5,000 will be next year). Passed unanimously.

Tishman reported that Greg Meeh has suggested signage warning of fog use. USITT is working on a series of signs that would include a fog warning.

4.4 Safe Practices and Loss control

Neal Huff reported that at the Ft. Worth meeting the passport issue was "a dead issue." However, there is general interest from the TSC in some kind of certification, a working definition of a "qualified person." Waters reported that Ken Vannice has made it his mission at USITT to come up with a way of determining qualified people per the NEC. Sabbi will contact Ken Vannice. The National Institute for Certification in Engineering Technologies (NICET) is an organization Huff identified as performing certification.

Rubinstein recommended ASAE--American Society of Association Executives membership for Ruling.

4.5 Photometric project.

There is support for starting a photometric working group. Ruling is charged with contacting Danny Haydt as a possible co-chair, while Valentino will contact Tom Pincu.

5.0 New Business

5.1 Ethernet Protocol

See above 4.2.

5.2 Update on UL

Waters reported that CAM-Loks can now be listed under UL1691.

UL1640. ESTA must be on canvas list for all stage and studio related equipment standards.

5.3 Pin Connectors

The USITT Pin Connector standards work needs to be publicized.

5.4 Report from steering committee

Groener and Valentino presented the Vision Statement (appended) and a plan to rationalize the structure of the TSC. The Vision Statement was approved by unanimous acclimation after minor editorial changes.

Waters moved to accept steering committee's revision of the TSC structure, to go into effect at LDI96 meeting. Suesse seconded. Sabbi and Vincent are to decide if it is to be in effect by, or to go into effect at, LDI96. Unanimous.

Groener presented the Steering Committee's idea to make the TSC an integral part of ESTA, with funding that is part of the general funding of ESTA. Carlson moved to accept the report of the steering committee to combine the TSC funding with the general funding for ESTA, to provide more stable funding for ESTA as a whole, and to place this before the Board. Suesse seconded. Unanimous.

6.1 Staffing Issues

Valentino moved, pending the approval by the ESTA Board of Directors for LTD insurance for the Executive Director and full-time Administrative Assistant, that the TSC approve the spending of \$65.17/month for LTD insurance for the Technical Standards Manager. Waters seconded. Approved.

Suesse requested the Technical Standards Manager document his work so the TSC can see how his time is being spent. Suggested the JR Clancy project logging system used by Tom Young.

8.0 Next Meeting

TSC: Wed 11/20, 1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. Omni Hotel, Orlando, FL, in a room to be determined.

Control protocols: Thursday 11/21, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Omni.

Fog and Smoke: Saturday 11/23/96, 6:30- 11:00 p.m. Omni.

9.0 Executive Session

10.0 Adjourned at 5:50 p.m.