Minutes
Technical Standards Committee
Wednesday, November 11, 1998
Hyatt Regency Hotel
Phoenix, AZ

Chairman: Bill Groener; Production Arts/PRG; Principal

Recording Secretary: Karl G. Ruling

TSC Members in attendance: Anne Valentino; Vari-Lite, Inc
                                Colin Waters; TMB Associatesl
                                Edward Paget; Jones & Phillips Associates, Inc.
                                Frank Stewart; Specialty Tech Services
                                Jay O. Glerum; Jay O. Glerum & Associates, Inc. (USITT rep.); Principal
                                Ken Vannice; NSI Corporation
                                Larry Schoeneman; Interesting Products, Inc.
                                Lori Rubinstein, ESTA (ex officio)
                                Mike Garl; James Thomas Engineering, Inc.
                                Mike Wood; High End Systems
                                Mitch Hefter; Rosco/Entertainment Technology
                                Paul Vincent; Vincent Lighting Systems; ESTA President
                                Rodney F. Kaiser; J.R. Clancy Inc. (USITT rep.); Alternate
                                Steve Carlson; Rosco/Entertainment Technology
                                Steve Terry; Production Arts/PRG
                                Tim Cox; PLASA ; Alternate

Visitors: David Saltiel; Bell, Boyd & Lloyd
           Eddie Kramer; Radio City Music Hall, IATSE Local 1 (arrived later)

1   Opening remarks

    Bill Groener called the meeting to order at 1:16 p.m.
    Groener chaired the meeting. He had been appointed by the ESTA President to replace George Sabbi,
    who had resigned. Groener offered a statement of thanks and appreciation to George Sabbi for his
    years of work on behalf of TDA/ESTA vis a vis Standards Making Efforts.

2   Attendance and membership

    Bill Groener noted that we exceeded the five needed for a quorum, saying, "There is no question that we
    have a quorum."

2.1   Attendance

    Attendance was taken by circulating a hot pink sign-in sheet.

2.2   Welcome to new members and visitors

    Bill Groener welcomed Tim Cox as Tony Douglas-Beveridges's alternate representing PLASA.

    Groener also welcomed David Saltiel, ESTA's legal counsel.

    Bill Groener also announced the new additions to the TSC: Larry Schoeneman and Ken Vannice. [The
    total number of TSC members has not changed. Bill Groener takes George Sabbi's spot; Mike Wood
    takes Paul Vincent's spot. (George and Paul will not continue to serve on the TSC.) Larry and Ken have
    been appointed to take Mike and Bill's spots.]

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3 Approval of minutes from the previous meeting

Steve Terry moved that the minutes be accepted as written. Steve Carlson seconded the motion. Unanimous by show of hands.

4 Call for patents and anti-trust statement

Bill Groener directed all to read the following statements, which were printed as part of the agenda. The group took a few minutes to do so. Groener asked if there were any comments. None were offered.

    "ESTA intends to publish no standard that contains protected intellectual property, unless that property can be licensed by anyone for a reasonable fee. ESTA uses a process of open patent disclosures to implement this intent. ESTA does not conduct patent searches and does not warrant that its standards contain no protected intellectual property.
    "In keeping with the open disclosure policy, I ask if anyone present wishes to notify the Technical Standards Committee of the existence of a patent or copyright that might protect material in a standard being developed by a working group. You need not be the holder of the patent or copyright in order to notify the TSC of its existence.
    "The ESTA Board of Directors and the leadership of this Technical Standards Committee will reject or nullify any actions that restrain trade. Anyone who feels that an action restraining trade is being or has been taken is requested to bring the matter to the attention of the chair immediately. Anyone who feels that actions in restraint of trade have been taken and not properly annulled is requested to notify the TSC chair or ESTA president immediately.
    "ESTA legal counsel has informed us that any member of this committee may be found individually liable for any action that restrains trade taken by this committee. An individual convicted of a violation of the Sherman Act may be fined as much as $100,000 and be imprisoned for up to three years. An easy to read pamphlet describing restraint of trade is available from the Technical Standards Committee."

5 Approval of agenda

Paul Vincent asked that Y2K be added under new business. Steve Terry moved that the agenda be accepted with this addition. Steve Carlson seconded the motion. Unanimous by show of hands.

6 Old business

6.1   Financial reports

6.1.1 Treasurer's report

Frank Stewart distributed the Technical Standards Program 1998 Summary (TSC/98-0027) and reported that we should finish the year with a surplus of about $20,000. He proposed to put it into a contingency fund, which was generally accepted by a group as a good idea.

At the request of Steve Terry and Colin Waters, the more detailed ESTA Expense Sheet, which includes the TSP budget, was distributed. (TSC/98-0026)

There was discussion that the budgets should be developed at the July TSC meeting for submission to the ESTA Executive Committee.

Anne Valentino said that she would like to see projections of the expenses on the TSP Summary documents. Frank said this information could be provided in a variety of ways, but that he didn't understand exactly what was wanted. The matter is complicated by the fact that we do not do a monthly accounting, and that our expenses are quite sporadic. Frank said he would try some different ways of presenting the information and send these out for comments so he can have an updated version for the next meeting.

The consensus was that the ESTA Expense sheet (TSC/98-0026) is good, but Anne Valentino requested a column of projections. Bill Groener asked Anne to work with Frank Stewart to develop an appropriate report form. Once created, this new form would be issued to the TSC at each subsequent meeting.

The consensus was that special funding requests from the working groups should be funneled through the technical standards manager, who would then send them to the TSC. The TSC will vote on the proposals by e-mail, mail, or some other means. The WG chairs can give the TSC notice that special funding requests are likely to be forwarded to them at the TSC meeting as part of their WG report.

Steve Terry moved that there be a requirement that, no later than the summer meeting, the TSC create a detailed budget for submission to ESTA.. Ted Paget seconded the motion. Unanimous by show of hands.

6.1.2 Status of contributions and pledges

Report (TSC/98-0028) was presented by Lori Rubinstein, and discussed by the group as a whole, as well as the need for some people to contact those who had not sent in their pledged amounts.

Bill Groener noted that if we collect all that is pledged, we will be "ahead of the game." Groener emphasized the importance of following up.

6.1.3 Accounting of TSP documents sold and on-hand

Lori Rubinstein presented the accounting of documents sold and on hand (TSP/98-0029).

6.2   Working group reports]

6.2.1 Photometrics

6.2.1.1   E1.9, nutrition label

Ruling reported that the document had been moved to go to first public review. All the ballots were in, except one. The ballot period closes the Monday after the working group meeting.

6.2.1.2   Revamp/renew IES procedures

Ruling reported that the IESNA is taking up the project of developing a new testing procedure or set of procedures for stage and studio luminaires.

6.2.1.3   Public information project

Ruling reported that little had been done on this, but that little could be expected to have been done because the standard hasn't been written yet.

6.2.2 Control Protocols

6.2.2.1   E1.3 update

Ruling reported that BSR E1.3 is in public review.

6.2.2.2   E1.11 matters:

6.2.2.2.1 DIN/DMX/IEC

Ruling reported on his attempts to contact the secretary to the US National Committee to the IEC to propose making E1.11 (DMX512) an IEC standard. No responses had been received to his letter and e-mail had been received yet. An IEC standard would be an international standard, and could be recognized in several countries, including the U.K., the U.S., and Germany.

The consensus was that we are heading down a path toward increased international standards participation. We should welcome this and accelerate this progress.

Mitch Hefter said that USITT is still concerned about the copyright issues with the DIN's incorporation of translated text from the USITT standard. David Saltiel will advise USITT on the copyright issues.

6.2.2.2.2 Physical Layer Task Group Report

Hefter reported that the physical layer task group's report will be incorporated into E1.11

6.2.2.2.3 DMX on Cat 5 Task Group

Hefter said that this report is to be presented at the CPWG meeting. Its recommendations witll be incorporated into E1.11

6.2.2.2.4 E1.11 general task group

Mitch Hefter reported that a total of 76 proposals had been received. The task group has addressed 71 of these, so five more are left to be done. Some were tabled until the reports of the other task groups were submitted.

6.2.2.3   Report of 100MBPS Task Group

Carlson reported that the document is being returned to the working group for action.

6.2.2.4   Report of ACN Task Group

Steve Carlson reported that the group had met informally at PLASA and in New Jersey.

The DHCP Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol (a means of obtaining IP addresses automatically) is being worked on. The group is looking for public domain implementations of the software. The class model document version 2 is done. Reliable multi-casting is the major hang-up now. The group is effectively stopped until the Internet Task Group develops IP6. IP6 will affect multi-casting by affecting the addressing system used.

Version 1.0 is expected to be released at LDI 1999. It will be released into public review at same time. The hardware platform is specified. The software test suite is being written now.

6.2.3 Fog and Smoke

6.2.3.1   E1.5, glycol/glycerin fog

Larry Schoeneman says project has been much more educational than expected. The F&S WG thought the literature search would be good-- it was -- but it is not enough. Setting standards is much more a policy-making process with assessments of risk and perceived risk. ENVIRON had been invited to the last meeting and explained the process. We requested from them a path to follow to write a standard and a ball-park figure. They said it would cost between $50,000 to $70,000, but that it would not be unreasonable to do a stink test: a survey of the material that can tell us if a standard can be written. Stink test for $10,000.

The TSC decided to anxiously await the working group's decision on the stink test.

6.2.3.2   Fog book, third edition

Larry Schoeneman explained that there was an important new product on the market, Liquid Synthetic Air. Praxair, the company that makes it, will buy 500 copies of the booklet if the product is discussed. He suggested we write an addendum, and insert it in the 1,700 copies of the book we have.

6.2.3.3   Standard for fog machine manuals

Schoeneman proposed that ESTA certify manuals and charge for this. David Saltiel said that the risk/return ratio for such a venture is very poor.It puts a big burden on ESTA, would not deter suits from consumers, and would not really give the manufacturer that much coverage. Steve Terry pointed out that

the ESTA endorsement of the manual could be on a manual for an unsafe fog machine, which would devalue the ESTA trademark.

Larrry Schoeneman explained, "I'm trying to find things we can sell," before withdrawing his proposal.

6.2.4 Rigging

6.2.4.1   E1.1 – Wire Rope Ladder Standard – status report

Rulig reported that BSR E1.1 will be in public reveiw from 12/4/1998 to 2/2/1999.

6.2.4.2   E1.2 – Aluminum Truss Standard – comment resolution

Mike Garl reporterd that 15 comments had been received from a total of people. The task group will meet to resolve the comments here at LDI.

6.2.4.3   E1.4 – Manual Counterweight Flying Systems Standard – status report

Ruling reported that BSR E1.4 is in public review and will be until January 5, 1999.

6.2.4.4   E1.6 – Powered Flying Systems – comment resolution

Mike Garl said no report from the task group had been received yet. "We'll find out."

6.2.4.5   E1.7 – Recommended Practice for Flying Performers – comment resolution

Garl reported that this document is still being worked on.

6.2.4.6   E1.8 – Speaker Enclosures Rigging Standard – comment resolution

Ruling said that all the comments had not been resolved yet, and that Andrew Martin was not expected to attend the rigging working group meeting. However, Martin had sent a fax reporting that he was working on the resolutions.

6.2.4.7   E1.10 – Building Structural Requirements Standard – comment resolution

Garl said a report was expected at the working group meeting.

6.2.4.8   British Standards – update

Tim Cox had no report.

6.2.4.9   Arena Scoreboards and Speakers

Mike Garl turned the floor over to Jay Glerum. Glerum reported on a IAAM meeting at which the chair refused to entertain any discussion of IAAM developing standards for arena scoreboard and speaker rigging. The chair seemed to be fearful of taking action.

6.2.4.10 Standard for Theatrical Boom & Base Assemblies – progress report

Garl said that the document had been returned to the task group for further work. It is now too construction-based rather than performance-based.

Anne Valentino offered congratulations to the Rigging Working Group for all the group's work.

6.2.5 Camera Cranes

Karl reported on the last meeting of the CCWG. The group decided on the following projects, but task group participants had not yet been determined.

- Task group to develop a guideline for a manufacturer's assembly manual.
- Task group to develop a standardized camera crane chart
- E1.12, American National Standard Crane task group
- Operators handbook task group

6.3   Public relations/marketing

Lori Rubinstein reported that KSA had made icons and a press kit. Next, they will do a TSP brochure, then contact organizations.

7 New business

7.1   ANSI meeting in Washington

Ruling report on the ANSI meeting he attended in Washington. Our concern about EN61000-3-2 is really a concern about possible revisions to EIC 1000-3-2, the standard on which EN61000-3-2 is based. Because of this, our concern is with the EIC, not CENELEC, so this meeting was not immediately helpful. However, Ruling met many people active in the international standards community, and knowing them may be useful in the future.

7.2   Y2K

Paul Vincent asked if there are any Y2K issues in which the TSP should be involved.

Anne said that Y2K is a manufacturing issue, and the potential for litigation is huge. The requests for information about Y2K compatibility that all vendors are now receiving are attempts to develop a paper trail so the litigation leads back to someone. David Saltiel called Y2K the "la lawyers full employment act."

The consensus was that this is not an issue for us.

7.3   Power quality

Bill Groener brought up the request by Andy Topinka to form a power quality working group. Groener said he would ask Topinka for more specifics of who might want to be on this working group and what they might want to do.

8 Other business

Steve Carlson announced that Johnson has donated 40 copies of his book on LAN's to the CPWG.

ESTA events at LDI were noted.

9 Schedule for future meetings

The following meetings will be held at the Dallas/Ft. Worth Marriott in Irving, Texas:

TSC – Friday, January 22, 1999, 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.
Rigging – Friday night, January 22, 1999
CP – Saturday, January 23, 1999, 9:00 a.m.
DMX task group will meet Friday night or morning, said Mitch Hefter.
Fog – Saturday, January 23, 1999, 1:00 p.m.
Photometrics – Saturday night.

Lori reported that the room rates at the Dallas/Ft. Worth Marriott are up a little, but they are not bad.

The TSC will meet on March 24th at the USITT Conference in Toronto.

10 Adjournment

Steve Carlson moved we adjourn. Colin Waters seconded. No objections.
Bill Groener declared the meeting adjourned at 5:26 p.m.

TSC Membership At End Of November 11, 1998 Meeting

Name	Company	Status
Mike Wood	High End Systems	Prin.
Larry Schoeneman	Interesting Products, Inc.	Prin.
Rodney F. Kaiser	J.R. Clancy Inc. (USITT rep)	Alt.
Mike Garl	James Thomas Engineering, Inc.	Prin.
Jay O. Glerum	Jay O. Glerum & Associates, Inc. (USITT rep)	Prin.
Edward Paget	Jones & Phillips Associates, Inc.	Prin.
Ken Vannice	NSI Corporation	Prin.
Tim Cox	PLASA	Alt.
Tony Douglas-Beveridge	PLASA Standards Office	Prin.
Steve Terry	PRG/Production Arts	Prin.
Bill Groener	PRG/Production Arts	Prin.
Steve Carlson	Rosco/Enter-tainment Technology	Prin.
Mitch Hefter	Rosco/Enter-tainment Technology	Prin.
Frank Stewart	Specialty Tech Services	Prin.
Colin Waters	TMB Associates	Prin.
Anne Valentino	Vari-Lite, Inc.	Prin.
Paul Vincent	Vincent Lighting Systems	ESTA President