

**Minutes**  
**Technical Standards Committee**

Friday, July 10, 1998  
Clarion International  
Rosemont, IL

Chairman: George Sabbi, PRG Lighting Division

Recording Secretary: Karl G. Ruling

TSC Members in attendance: Bill Groener, Barbizon Electric  
Lori Rubinstein, ESTA (ex-officio)  
Mike Wood, High End Systems  
Mike Garl, James Thomas Engineering, Inc.  
Edward Paget, Jones & Phillips Associates, Inc.  
Tony Douglas-Beveridge, PLASA Standards Office  
Steve Terry, PRG/Production Arts  
Steve Carlson, Rosco/Entertainment Technology  
Mitch Hefter, Rosco/Entertainment Technology (USITT)  
Frank Stewart, Specialty Tech Services  
Colin Waters, TMB Associates  
Rodney F. Kaiser, USITT (J.R. Clancy Inc.)  
Paul Vincent, Vincent Lighting Systems

Visitors: Ken Vannice, NSI/Colortran  
Tracy Underhill, Electronics Diversified  
Larry Schoeneman, Interesting Products  
Richard Nix, Performance Systems Integration

1 Opening remarks

George Sabbi called the meeting to order at 1:18 p.m.

2 Attendance and membership  
(Five required for quorum.)

George Sabbi announced that a quorum was present.

3 Approval of minutes from the previous meeting

George Sabbi pointed out that Jay Glerum was not at the March meeting, although the draft minutes say he was. This needed to be changed in the minutes. The group agreed that this was so.

Mike Garl moved that the minutes be approved as written, but with the deletion of Jay Glerum from the list of members attending. Rodney Kaiser seconded the motion. Unanimous acclamation.

4 Call for patents and anti-trust statement

George Sabbi read the following statements

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

Steve Terry requested that we add an item under other business: "TSC makeup in view of recent acquisitions." George Sabbi agreed. He also asked that the discussion of plunging scoreboards be moved into Rigging in the order of business.

Steve Terry moved that we accept the agenda with the above changes. Colin Waters seconded. Unanimous show of hands.

## 6 Old business

### 6.1 Financial reports

#### 6.1.1 Treasurer's report [Frank Stewart]

Frank Stewart gave a verbal report on the budget. The expenditures are generally in line with the budget.

Karl Ruling was asked for budget request from the working groups. He said he would ask for them from the WG chairs.

George Sabbi pointed out that postage costs were high: \$7500 was budgeted, but \$5,500 has been spent so far. Postage will hit \$10,000 by the end of the year.

Steve Terry asked for a more detailed budget report. Frank Stewart said he will mail a more detailed report to TSC members

#### 6.1.2 Mid-year review of budget [Frank Stewart, Lori Rubinstein, Karl Ruling, and WG chairs]

This was done as part of the above discussion.

#### 6.1.3 Status of contributions and pledges [Bill Groener and Lori Rubinstein]

Lori Rubinstein handed out a spreadsheet detailing the contributions (TSC/98-0020).

Bill Groener raised the issue of the consolidation in the industry, and the loss of some of the separate companies that used to contribute to the TSP. George Sabbi and Steve Terry said they would work to

explain to the heads of their company the importance of continuing the funding that came from the subsumed organizations.

#### 6.1.4 Accounting of TSP documents sold and on-hand [Lori Rubinstein]

Lori Rubinstein distributed a spreadsheet detailing the sales and amounts on hand (TSC/98-0021). She reported that the switchover to having USITT handle publication sales had been costly to USITT, but that it has gone smoothly.

Lori reported that the IA had asked that we send a packet of information to their International meeting in Canada. We carted over 1,000 directories to the IA office for distribution.

### 6.2 Working group reports [Karl Ruling or working group chairs]

#### 6.2.1 Photometrics

Karl Ruling reported on the progress of the three working group projects.

E1.9, nutrition label: There will be another version of the document at this meeting. It does not require a cosine distribution. Steve Terry asked if this was not essential for providing a "level playing field" for comparing instruments. Ruling explained that it was not, and that to level the playing field in this way would inevitably favor one manufacturer over another, and thus raise restraint of trade issues.

Revamp/renew IES procedures: Jody Good has been reporting on a fairly regular basis that there is work going on this in the IES. It looks like the photometric testing subcommittee in the IES will be taking up this project.

Public information project: Ruling reported that little is happening here, but that little is expected to happen until we have a document to explain.

Ruling also reported that he was not sure that any working group chair would be at the meeting on July 11. Tom Pincu was on vacation, and Danny Haydt had said that he would be there, but he was not scheduled to return from Beijing until July 10. Communication with between the chairs, particularly Danny Haydt, and the TSM has generally been poor. Ruling said most of the work in the group has been done by Larry Leiberman and Tom Tyler, who appear to have a real drive to have the E1.9 project come to fruition.

Steve Terry made a motion that the current chairs, Tom Pincu and Danny Haydt, be replaced and that Karl Ruling recruit Larry Leiberman and Tom Tyler. Bill Groener seconded the motion. Unanimous by show of hands.

#### 6.2.2 Control Protocols

Steve Terry reported on the progress and issues of the working group.

6.2.2.1 E1.3 analog control: The motion to send the draft standard to a second public review had been sent to the working group. One negative vote with a comment had been received, and this needed to be resolved.

6.2.2.2 E1.11 proposals: Steve Terry reported that we have 65 to 70 proposals for modifications to DMX and that the task group is working on a draft of the new E1.11 standard. Perhaps a first draft will be offered to the CP Working Group by LDI. The five goals of the task group have been established as:

1. To produce a consensus document following proper standards procedure.
2. To make editorial updates to the DMX512 standard appropriate for 1998.
3. To add technical features while maintaining a balance with backward compatibility.
4. To identify comments for other standards or application documents
5. To deliver a draft document to the working group.

6.2.2.2.1 Protection on data lines and pin labeling: Terry reported that these features will be incorporated into the new standard.

6.2.2.2.2 DMX on Cat 5 cable: Steve Terry reported that Dave Higgins had done some testing and will report on the results at the CPWG meeting. .

6.2.2.2.3 ESTA/PLASA DMX survey, a.k.a. PICS List: Terry said we'll decide what to do with the most recent version at the meeting.

6.2.2.3 Fast Ethernet cabling project: Terry reported that some work had been done on this project, and that there would be a report at the meeting.

6.2.2.4 Advanced Control Network project: As above: there has been progress on this.

### 6.2.3 Fog and Smoke

Larry Schoeneman gave a report on the work of the group, but did not report on the projects in the order of the agenda.

On the latest revisions to the fog and smoke book, Larry Schoeneman reported that Bill Hektner has been appointed to do an expanded Introduction with more historical information.

At the last meeting, Murray Gellatly reported on manuals and presented a tag, which is designed to be attached to a machine and to give the absolute basic warnings. Dealer members in the working group will work on a recommended practice for manuals.

Larry Schoeneman reported that the glycol area has become extremely confusing and is rapidly changing.

Ken Wilmarth from ENVIRON attended the meeting at Long Beach. He is a very straightforward, science-guy. He also has an idea of a way to interest the CMA in the project for possible funding.

Larry Schoeneman mentioned the Stage Directors and Choreographers Foundation meeting in New York, to which we were inadvertently invited. [Karl Ruling's report on this was mailed to the members of the TSC in April.] However, there was a subsequent secret meeting, to which we were not invited. Schoeneman reported that the upshot is that the equity, wardrobe people, IA, and musicians are all planning coordinated language in their contracts banning all but CO<sub>2</sub> and nitrogen.

Schoeneman had planned to attend the IA annual meeting in Toronto, but was told by Gary Fails that he can't attend since he is not an IA member and has not been invited.

Schoeneman said he had received a call from a stage manager in Vermont who said he had gotten a letter from Equity banning all fog except CO<sub>2</sub> and nitrogen.

The problem is that we can't get the word to Equity members and stagehands. They don't read our publications. Equity owns the printing press.

Lori Rubinstein introduced the discussion of our hiring a PR firm, and then deferred to Bill Groener. We will have a PR firm here today, with a meeting and discussion with the Board set for Sunday

morning. The consensus was that we need to get our PR people working on this right away, and we also need to contact the League to see if the rumors are true.

Schoeneman reported that work on E1.5 was being held while we try to determine permissible maximum, short-term levels.

## 6.2.4 Rigging

### 6.2.4.1 Documents back from public review:

#### 6.2.4.1.1 E1.6, powered rigging systems

#### 6.2.4.1.2 E1.8, speaker enclosures for flying

Mike Garl reported that E1.6 had received 266 comments, E1.8 had received 105. The task groups were working on resolving them.

### 6.2.4.2 Documents going to a second public reviews:

6.2.4.2.1 E1.2, truss: Ruling reported that not all the TSC ballots had been returned, so that ballot was still open

6.2.4.2.2 E1.4, manual counterweight: Ruling reported that there was a negative vote and a comment that needed to be resolved on the WG letter ballot to send it to a second public review.

6.2.4.2.3 E1.1, wire rope ladder: Ruling reported that there were several disputed resolutions to the public review comments. Rocky Paulson had summarized the working group comments against the original resolutions, and provided new resolutions to address these and the original public review comments. These will be discussed at the RWG meeting.

6.2.4.3 Documents *almost* in public review --E1.7, flying performers: Ruling announced that this will go to public review on July 17, 1998.

6.2.4.4 Documents going for a first public review -- E1.10 Building Structural Requirements Ruling reported that not all the TSC ballots had been returned, so that ballot was still open

6.2.4.5 Plunging Scoreboards: Mike Garl reported that a mini-task group was established for this project. It would be discussed at the WG meeting this night. Ruling added that Steve Butner of Aerial Rigging will be at the meeting specifically to discuss scoreboard rigging.

### 6.2.4.5 UL 1573 response [Karl Ruling]

Ruling distributed his response to the proposed changes to UL 1573 (TSC/98-0022). Originally the proposed change was to require safe working load labeling on plugging strips, and this labeling would have been confusing to the end user, and would have conflicted with requirements in our draft E1.4. Ruling had been directed by the TSC to impress upon UL that labeling requirements were going to be covered by E1.4, and that this was an area that UL should leave to us. However, the proposed changes to UL 1573 have been changed, and now no longer require labeling. Instead, the require load-testing of plugging strip brackets with an assumed load of 30# per lineal foot of supported batten. Ruling found that this specification was far more than adequate for some theatres, but was too low for supporting many popular automated luminaires, so it was, in his opinion, not a good rule that would help ESTA members or users of plugging strips. Therefore, he felt that the changes should still be opposed. However, he found that our draft E1.4 had this same load specification, so mentioning E1.4 in a letter to UL would probably not help his argument against the proposed changes to UL 1573.

Ruling reported that his fax had been sent to UL before the deadline for comments, but that no reply had been received. Steve Terry said a reply is necessary per UL procedures, and directed Ruling to find out if Heib had received the fax.

Ken Vannice spoke of UL's proposal to harmonize standards. Vannice said we need an industry-wide discussion about harmonization. Steve Terry asked Ken Vannice if he would chair this discussion, which might be via e-mail. He agreed.

Steve Terry reported that another draft review is out on Subject 1691, single-pole connectors. It should have gone to the UL 1640 group. STEVE Terry Suggested that Ken Vannice and Karl Ruling should be empowered to communicate with UL as they see fit.

### 6.3 Public relations/marketing [Lori Rubinstein and Karl Ruling]

Lori Rubinstein reported that the PR firm hired was the KSA Group. She outlined the selection committee and how it was determined that KSA had presented the best proposal for our needs.

Bill Groener pointed out that the PR/marketing campaign is an unbudgeted project.

### 6.4 USITT-based certification programs [Paul Vincent]

Paul Vincent distributed Kam McCormick's Certification Work Group Development Progress Report (TSC/98-0023). He stated that this is not a TSC/TSP project, but we should be informed. Vincent also distributed with the Kam McCormick report some articles from Sightlines and LD&A. [All are part of TSC/98-0023] Vincent also passed around a copy of an IATSE publications about an IATSE 728 Education Program.

Lori Rubinstein mentioned that Local 1 has a group interested in training, also.

## 7 New business -- The PERA Crane standard project [Steve Carlson and Colin Waters]

Colin Waters said he and Steve Carlson attended the PERA meeting and addressed a group of 40 to 50 people to tell them about the TSP. At the meeting, Waters had discussed the goals, while Carlson talked about the nuts and bolts.

George Sabbi read the letter from Ed Clare, asking the TSP to form a Camera Cranes Working Group.

A meeting of the people within PERA interested in the project was tentatively scheduled for August 5 in the LA area. The consensus was that Ruling should attend this one.

Steve Terry moved that a Camera Cranes Working Group be formed to address the needs for standards with camera cranes. Ted Paget seconded the motion. Unanimous by show of hands.

## 8 Other business -- TSC makeup in view of recent acquisitions

Steve Terry reported that on July 1 Production Arts was acquired by PRG. Steve Terry expressed concern about the industry perception that PRG is taking over, and suggested that perhaps the appropriate thing would be for him to resign from the TSC, particularly since one PRG employee was already the head of the TSC. Paul Vincent reported that our legal counsel, David Saltiel, did not feel that this was going to create a legal problem. As to public perception, Vincent felt that it is a concern, but not a problem. The consensus was that Terry should not resign.

## 9 Schedule for future meetings

Lori Rubinstein reviewed the meeting schedule for the rest of this weekend.

The LDI schedule was reviewed:

TSC Wednesday, November 11, at the Hyatt in Phoenix.  
Rigging Wednesday, November 11, 7:00-11:00 p.m.  
DMX Task Group Wednesday 7:00-11:00 p.m. 18 people  
CP Thursday, November 12, all day. (ESTA dinner that night.)  
F&S Saturday, November 14, Night.  
Photo TBA.

#### 10 Adjournment

Steve Terry moved we adjourn. Ted Paget seconded. No objections. George Sabbi announced that the meeting was adjourned at 5:02 p.m.