

Minutes
Technical Standards Committee
Friday, 19 January 2001
Dallas/Ft. Worth Airport Marriott
Irving, TX

Chair: Bill Groener; Fourth Phase New Jersey

Recording secretary: Karl G. Ruling; ESTA

Members attending: Frank Stewart; Specialty Tech Services
Mike Garl; James Thomas Engineering, Inc.
Colin Waters; TMB Associates
Edward (Ted) Paget; Jones & Phillips Associates, Inc.
Mitch Hefter; Rosco/Entertainment Technology
Rodney F. Kaiser; USITT (J.R. Clancy Inc.)
Ken Vannice; NSI Corporation
Edwin S. Kramer; IATSE, Local 1
Tera Johnson; Electronic Theatre Controls, Inc.
Lori Rubinstein; ESTA, ex officio

Visitors: Roger L. Lattin, IATSE Local 728
Bob Luther, Lex Products
Louis Bradfield, Bally's Las Vegas
Tim Hansen, Oasis Stage Werks
Steve Carlson, High Speed Design (arrived at 16:00)

1 Opening remarks

Bill Groener welcomed all at 13:08 and started the meeting.

2 Attendance and membership (Five required for quorum.)

2.1 Attendance

A pink attendance sheet was passed around and Groener asked those present to introduce themselves.

2.2 Welcome to visitors

Bill Groener welcomed the visitors and welcomed Eddie Kramer and Ted Paget back to the meeting.

Groener noted that Lori had distributed the ESTA 2001 Committee Contact Llist, and asked that any necessary changes be identified.

3 Approval of minutes from the previous meeting

It was noted that there was a typo at 6.2.1 of the draft minutes in which it says Stewart "had gave" something. This should be changed to "had given." Mike Garl moved that the draft minutes be approved with this correction. The motion was seconded. The motion was accepted unanimously on a voice vote.

4 Call for patents and anti-trust statement

Bill Groener read the following:

"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. "

No issues were identified by those attending the meeting.

Groener then read the following:

"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."

No issues were identified by those attending the meeting.

5 Approval of agenda

Groener asked if anything needed to be added or changed on the draft agenda.

Ted Paget said that the reports on E1.13 and E1.6 should be combined since the projects will be combined under E1.6.

Mitch Hefter suggested that the ACN report should be held until Steve Carlson arrives.

Paget moved that the agenda be accepted with these changes. The motion was seconded. The motion was accepted unanimously with a show of hands.

6 Old business

6.1 Financial reports

6.1.1 Treasurer's report

Frank Stewart's report had been sent via email, but it's now changed. Line 536.3 changed to deal with the way ANSI is billing us. Fog reduced because the testing is not likely to use the amount originally budgeted.

Ken Vannice said that the EPWG needs money to do a survey mailing. Lori offered \$1,000 which should cover postage for slightly less than 3,000 pieces.

Frank explained what all the numbers mean. Expenses to date includes contract labor. The "actual expenses" sheet does not include contract labor salaries.

6.1.2 Status of contributions and pledges

Lori Rubinstein said that Tera Johnson, Bill Groener, and she are working on a plan for funding for ESTA and the TSP. It's not done yet, but it should be ready to present at the next meeting.

Groener said they had identified a need to demonstrate to the ESTA membership that standards are important to them, so a series of articles will be written by Andrea Sussman. She will call and interview people to find out how the program has helped their businesses, and plans to cover every segment: dealers, manufacturers, affiliates.

Groener noted that we have come to end of our three-year fund-raising campaign. The group has decided that the expedient course at this time would be to send out pledge renewal forms to people who had pledged in the past, since they are likely to be willing to continue to donate. The renewal forms were sent out with the dues renewal a forms in December stating that this is what was given in the past and asking if they will do the same again. There was also space to enter a new amount.

There was a discussion of the status of the pledges to date: who had pledged, who had fulfilled their pledges, and who was unlikely to do so.

Lori Rubinstein presented a plan to honor donors by classifications — e.g. silver, gold, platinum, etc.— and asked for suggestions of better classification names. Ted Paget suggested "Innovators" as the top level, "Researchers" as the second level, and "Developers" as the lowest level. Paget said he liked the idea of the tiers and categories because it gives benchmarks when soliciting contributions.

There was a discussion of what to do with individual and association/organization donations. Individuals put in smallest company category. Organizations put them in categories that seem appropriate due to the size and wealth of the organization.

All agreed that "Investment" is the key word, rather than "contribution."

6.1.3 Accounting of TSP documents sold and on-hand

Lori Rubinstein directed people to the distributed report on paper.

6.1.4 Swag report

Rubinstein verbally reported on how sales were going.

6.2 Working group reports

6.2.1 Camera Cranes

6.2.1.1 E1.12, American National Standard for camera cranes task group

Ruling reported that no work had been done on this yet.

6.2.1.2 Operators handbook task group

Ruling reported that a working group meeting is scheduled in March, with a task group meeting before that. The handbook will be the major item of business.

6.2.2 Control Protocols

6.2.2.1 E1.3, analog control

Ruling reported that the Board letter ballot to accept the final document closes on 21 January. So far there had been no dissenting votes.

6.2.2.2 E1.11, the new DMX

Ruling reported that only the USITT vote on the public question was outstanding. Rodney Kaiser submitted his ballot, and Ruling reported that the motion had passed.

Mitch Hefter reported on IEC process and how that plan is that our document will be the input document to the IEC committee. He had asked the secretary of the IEC group if this plan is still okay. He hadn't received a reply.

Hefter reported that work has begun on some E1.11 application notes and other ancillary documents. Application guide, scroller power, etc.

Hefter said he is still working on the CAT 5 Report. He plans to submit it to the TSC for approval to publish it on the web.

6.2.2.3 Report of ACN Task Group

Steve Carlson said that his email about the task group's decision that ACN can become an American National Standard should suffice for the requested report of the task group's intentions to the TSC.

Carlson gave a report on how the project is going. The architecture is sketched out, and they are now developing pieces of software to test the architecture. They must work with the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority to get port assignments, but that looks like it can be done.

Rubinstein asked Carlson for a time-line. Carlson said that he couldn't do that yet, but should be able to do so soon.

Rubinstein and Groener thanked Carlson for his work.

6.2.3 Fog and Smoke

6.2.3.1 Working group co-chair appointment

Brad Dittmer had accepted the co-chair position, reported Ruling.

6.2.3.2 E1.5, glycol/glycerin fog

6.2.3.2.1 ACGIH request

Ruling reported that the ACGIH will consider our request for them to set exposure limits for the glycols used in fog at a meeting later in January, this month.

6.2.3.2.2 Sampling project

Ruling reported that the F&S Working Group decided to try to get USITT involved. They have members all over the US who might be willing to take samples for us, and the working group does not feel that it has the funds to pay someone to do all the sampling it wants done.

6.2.3.3 E1.14, Standard for fog machine manuals

Paget moved that the TSC recommend BSR E1.14 to the ESTA Board for acceptance as an American National Standard. The motion was seconded.

Name	Company	Voting status	Accept	Accept in principle	Accept in part	Reject	Abstain
Tera Johnson	Electronic Theatre Controls	P	X				
Mike Wood	High End Systems Inc.	P	X				
Edwin S. Kramer	I.A.T.S.E. Local 1	P	X				
Lary Schoeneman	Interesting Products, Inc.	P					(not present)
Mike Garl	James Thomas Engineering, Inc.	P	X				
Edward Paget	Jones & Phillips Associates, Inc.	P	X				
Ken Vannice	Leviton Manufacturing Co., Inc.	P	X				
Tim Cox	PLASA	P					(not present)
Tony Douglas-Beveridge	PLASA	A					
Bill Groener	PRG	P	X				
Mitch Hefter	Rosco Laboratories	P	X				
Frank Stewart	Specialty Tech Services	P	X				
Colin Waters	TMB Associates	P	X				
Rodney F. Kaiser	USITT	P	X				
Florian von Hofen	VPLT	P					(not present)
Eckart Steffens	VPLT	A					
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The motion carried with a supermajority.

6.2.4 Photometrics

6.2.4.1 E1.9, nutrition label

Ruling reported that the Board letter ballot to accept the final document closes on 24 January. So far there had been no dissenting votes.

6.2.4.2 Revamp/renew IES procedures

Ruling reported that the IES's Board was expected to approve a new testing RP, but that the Photometrics Working Group hadn't seen what it believes is the final draft yet.

6.2.4.3 Public information project

Ruling reported that Larry Lieberman and he are to report to the public on the new E1.9 standard (assuming it is approved as a standard) at the USITT Conference. There are still plans to write some sort of booklet on photometry that would be similar to the Introduction to Modern Atmospheric Effects.

6.2.5 Rigging

6.2.5.1 E1.4 – Manual Rigging Systems Standard

Mike Garl reported that they are still working on resolving comments.

6.2.5.2 E1.6 – Powered Rigging Systems & E1.13 – Arena Scoreboards and Speakers

The two task groups were combined into one task group, reported Garl. Ted Paget said they met and agreed that it will be merged into one document, E1.6. There was a problem in that E1.6 dealt with the building structure, too. The task groups decided that the structure and the load are outside what we could control with this standard.

6.2.5.3 E1.7 – Recommended Practice for Flying Performers

Mike Garl reported that proposed resolutions had been sent to the working group.

6.2.5.4 E1.8 – Speaker Enclosures Rigging Standard

Garl reported that proposed resolutions had been sent to the working group.

6.2.5.5 E1.10 – Building Structural Requirements Standard

Mike Garl said that Ted Paget will be at the Rigging Working Group meeting to speak for the consultants. Ruling said that Jerry Gorrell, the task group leader, had told him he was thinking of abandoning the project for lack of support.

6.2.5.6 E1.15 – Manufacture, Assembly, and Use of Theatrical Boom & Base Assemblies

Mike Garl said that the document had been sent back to the task group for more work. Garl reported that there is a DIN standard that covers a wide variety of stands, including boom and base assemblies. It will be consulted to see if there is anything we can adapt or adopt.

6.2.6 Power

6.2.6.1 Task group on a recommended practice for selection, installation, and use of portable feeder cable.

Ken Vannice reported that the task group has been working on a power feeder survey. They've made one, but it needed polishing, so spent the bulk of the meeting time this morning (19 January) massaging it.

Vannice asked if we need TSC approval to send out the survey. Groener said no, and that money had been authorization for distribution, so the group already has the TSC's permission.

6.2.6.2 Task group for a recommended practice for use of GFCI (Residual Current Devices) in entertainment applications.

Vannice said that they had a draft document and that the task group is progressing.

6.2.6.3 E1.16 – Task group to write a configuration standard for HMI power cables

Vannice reported that a motion for a public review letter ballot had been made.

6.2.6.4 EMC task group (including EMC Workshops/LFEIC report)

Ken Vannice reported that amendments to the 61000 standard were accepted at beginning of the year. He said that there is the argument advanced in the industry that these stringent harmonic limits are a restraint of trade. However, some say that since the standard is voluntary, it is not a barrier to trade. The US response is that no competent body will certify a product unless it complies with the standard, so this standard is in fact, not voluntary. Vannice has sent this argument to UL for a response.

IBM wrote up a legal brief of how suit could be brought, but the suit would cost \$100,000 to carry out and would take so long as to be useless.

The Low Frequency Emissions Industry Coalition's effort to start a public relations campaign has dissolved in indecision over the initial press release. The LFEIC is having a major meeting in February to decide how to regroup, reported Vannice.

The LFEIC is working on getting better representation on the IEC harmonics working groups.

6.2.6.5 Power quality task group

Vannice reported that a document was sent to the working group, but that it was not reviewed at the morning meeting. We didn't review it. Andy not there. Lot's of information, but it needs to be directed to the needs of the entertainment industry.

6.2.7 Floors

Tim Hansen reported that a successful meeting had been held, and the a task group was formed to research the existing standards.

6.3 Report on liaisons to other industry groups

Mitch Hefter proposed that Karl G. Ruling become USITT's representative on the life safety code panel. Groener stated that the TSC had agreed to this. Lori agreed to write a letter supporting Ruling's appointment as USITT's representative.

6.4 NFPA 5000, Building Code

There was no news on this. Ruling was directed to strike it from future agendas unless further action on this is necessary.

6.5 Non-profit foundation project report

Rubinstein said the project is on hold because of market research program

6.6 Revenue issues with standards task force report

Groener said the is no official report on this yet, but that there will be something to share by USITT.

6.7 P&P Revision

Ruling stated his intention to have a copy to be commented on to have something firm by the next meeting.

Eddie Kramer suggested Ruling look at the certification document for guidance on a better P&P.

6.8 Review of action items from last meeting not covered above

The floors icon was done.

Tim Hansen's comments on NFPA 5000 were submitted by Ruling on behalf of the TSC.

Ruling had submitted the amended responses to the audit to ANSI.

7 New Business

7.1 Maiman

Bill Groener introduced the idea of hiring of Bill Maiman to help Ruling and to do the certification work. The absolute need for help for Ruling is probably 3 months to 6 months off, but the opportunity to hire Maiman is now.

Paget said that it seems prudent to give Ruling some help, as long as we can pay for it.

Ruling will supervise Maiman on technical standards work, Lori Rubinstein explained

Colin Waters said he thinks he's a good choice.

7.2 What is due diligence for the TSC?

Ruling says it's making sure that procedures are being followed. Ted Paget says it's making sure that standards make sense.

8 Other business

8.1 Rubinstein announced that the Hospitality suite is 1934. She had been told that the usual suite was not available because the 20th floor is being renovated.

8.2 Lori Rubinstein reported that she and Frank Stewart had toured other hotels in the area and found that this is still the best. An arrangement has been made in which we can sit in the Café but order off the Pitchers or steakhouse menu to avoid the smoke of Pitchers and have a fast meal.

8.3 Lori Rubinstein spoke to the need for people to reserve rooms through ESTA. We'll have a hand out and working group chairs or Ruling will present it. If people are late with their reservations, they should still send the reservation form to the office. It will still help us meet our block booking minimum.

8.4 Frank Stewart says we have reviewed our insurance and we do have errors and omissions insurance, plus liability that cover this committee.

8.5 Lattin offered to show anyone the copper underbelly of Hollywood when we visit the LA area for the USITT meetings.

9 Schedule for future meetings

The meeting schedule was passed out, noted Groener. The next TSC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 21, 13:00 to 17:00.

The July dates will be 13, 14, and 15, announced Lori.

Kramer pointed out that USITT will start February 13, which is very close to the traditional January meeting time. It was decided by consensus that we will meet at USITT in February and somewhere else in May for our first two meetings of 2002.

10 Adjournment

Ted Paget moved that the meeting adjourn. The motion was seconded. The motion was accepted unanimously by voice vote. Groener declared the meeting adjourned at 16:44.

Technical Standards Committee Membership and Contact Information at Close of Meeting

Name	Company or representation	Voting status
Tera Johnson	Electronic Theatre Controls, Inc.	P
Bill Groener	Fourth Phase New Jersey	P
Mike Wood	High End Systems Inc.	P
Edwin S. Kramer	IATSE, Local 1	P
Larry Schoeneman	Interesting Products, Inc.	P
Mike Garl	James Thomas Engineering, Inc.	P
Edward Paget	Jones & Phillips Associates, Inc.	P
Ken Vannice	NSI Corporation	P
Tony Douglas-Beveridge	PLASA	A
Tim Cox	PLASA	P
Mitch Hefter	Rosco/Entertainment Technology	P
Frank Stewart	Specialty Tech Services	P
Colin Waters	TMB Associates	P
Rodney F. Kaiser	USITT (J.R. Clancy Inc.)	P
Jay O. Glerum	USITT (Jay O. Glerum & Associates, Inc.)	A
Florian von Hofen	VPLT	P
Eckart Steffens	VPLT (SOUNDLIGHT)	A