

ESTA Control Protocols Working Group Meeting Minutes

March 14, 1996

Fort Worth, TX

In attendance were: David Bertenshaw, Steve Carlson, Tony Douglas-Beveridge, Robert Goddard, Jerry Gorrell, Mitch Hefter, Dave Higgins, Mark Kraft (John Mehlretter), Rick Leinen, Ed Prasser, George Sabbi, Steve Terry.

Terry called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m.

1.0 Review of Current Working Group Members

1.1 Steve Terry reviewed the membership requirements for the ESTA Working Groups. A review of the principal members was conducted, and a general discussion was held on who would be asked to change their status to Observer as per the procedures outlined in the Policies and Procedures document.

2.0 Processing of New Membership Applications

Geoffrey Thompson of IEEE approved for principal membership.

Ed A. Paget approved with observer status.

Tim Bachman's membership status is now as the principal from Barbizon.

3.0 Review of Minutes of 1/20/96

3.1 A review and follow-up of action items contained in the minutes was requested. This was tabled until "Other Business."

Motion: Following review, the minutes were moved for approval by Mitch Hefter. Second Ed Prasser. Approved by affirmation.

4.0 Call for Patents

4.1 No new patent issues were presented.

5.0 Approval of Agenda

5.1 Following Review of the Agenda it was approved with the addition of an item for discussion of changing the working group's name.

Motion to accept agenda offered by Ed Prasser, seconded by Steve Carlson. Approved by affirmation.

6.0 ESTA Anti-Trust Issues

6.1 Steve Carlson went over the ESTA stance on anti-trust issues and noted that if anyone needed more information they could contact the ESTA office.

7.0 Old Business

7.1 DMX Channel Allocation Project

7.1.1 Steve Carlson reported that there were several updates to the website channel allocation listing that had been recently made.

7.1.2 Discussion was held on whether or not the page had end-user validity. David Bertenshaw requested that a form be set up with a link on the Main Channel Allocation page requesting feedback from users.

7.1.2.1 George Sabbi will look into setting this up with the ESTA Webmaster and the data will be directly sent to both Stave Terry and Steve Carlson.

7.2 Ethernet Document

7.2.1 David Bertenshaw noted that Strand had voted "Accept" and not "Accept in Principle" on the Ethernet Document Approval Ballot. The vote tally indicated the former incorrectly. Change will be made.

7.2.2 Doug Fleenor indicated he had sent in an "Accept" vote and it was not indicated, however, the total reflected that there was a missing "Accept" vote. Therefore the committee requested that an "Accept" checkmark be added next to Mr. Fleenor's name.

7.2.3 The Working Group recessed into a task group session for review of the comments received with the Working Group Letter Ballot. Review of technical comments on Ethernet Document was done and resolutions were made to all comments by the task group.

7.2.4 The Working Group re-convened for consideration of the revised Ethernet document.

Motion: Ed Prasser made a motion that the document be accepted as revised for forwarding to the TSC for approval to send to Public Review. Seconded by Doug Fleenor. Motion passed unanimously.

8.0 New Business

8.1 Revision and update of the Ethernet Cabling Document

8.1.1 Ed Prasser noted that work needs to be started on the next version of the Ethernet document.

8.1.1.1 It was suggested that a mini-task group be assembled to work on the issues for a structured wiring plan for 100Mbs UTP. Ed Prasser will assemble and outline of issues for circulation to the Working Group. It will be an item for work at the June meeting.

8.2 Common Ethernet Protocol

8.2.1 David Bertenshaw presented the idea that the Working Group needs to begin addressing how to get data onto and off the Ethernet pipe in a standardized method.

8.2.2 It was noted that unless we do something soon, there could be non-standardized systems developed and these could have a detrimental effect to the interconnectivity of devices.

8.2.3 It was suggested that a mini-task group start work on this project and general discussion followed on the logistics of getting this underway. It was felt that UDP (a subset of TCP/IP) was the logical standard to go to.

8.2.3.1 It was noted that in order to do this, manufacturers would need to allocate time and personnel to a joint development team.

8.2.4 It was noted that a formal plan needed to be written for circulation to the various manufacturer's management people in order to gain the necessary financial and labor support for this project. It was stated that the plan needed to be written so that it was easily understandable and convincing in its argument. It should put forward a logical set of reasons why it would be desirable for manufacturer A to support work on a protocol development project that would allow Manufacturer A, B, and C's gear to all be able to communicate.

8.2.5 The initial draft will be prepared by David Bertenshaw and sent to Steve Terry for circulation among the Working Group.

9.0 Other Business

9.1 Review and Follow-Up of Action Items from 1/20/96 Minutes

9.1.1 EMC and DMX512 Issues

9.1.1.1 Discussion was held on the matter of DMX512 and EMC compliance, and David Bertenshaw reported that it was possible to implement EMC compliant DMX512. This is simply done by following good engineering practices in the design and implementation of the equipment.

9.1.1.2 The Working Group concluded that it was not necessary to act further on this matter.

9.1.2 CE Marking Issues

9.1.2.1 It was noted that the issue of CE Marking and Testing Compliance was a business issue in many cases.

9.1.2.2 It was noted that there is a need for more information on CE to be provided by ESTA. It was stated that the position of ESTA Technical Standards Manager would be inclusive of a Standards Watch.

9.1.2.3 The first issue of ESTA Protocol includes an introductory article on the subject.

10.0 Next Meeting

June 8, 1996 Dallas, TX. 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

11.0 Adjourn

Motion by Dave Higgins, second by Steve Terry.
Adjourned at 11:54 p.m.