

**Minutes**  
**Control Protocols Working Group**  
Pittsburgh, PA  
March 21, 1997

Committee chairs: Steve Carlson, Rosco/Entertainment Technology  
Steve Terry, Production Arts Lighting

Recording secretary: Karl G. Ruling

In attendance: Amit Resh, Compulite R & D  
Dave Higgins, Gray Interfaces  
Dexter McNeil, Goddard Design Co.  
Doug Fleenor, Doug Fleenor Design  
Ed Arend, Electronics Diversified Inc.  
Ed Jones, Edwin Jones Co.  
Ed Prasser, Electronic Theatre Controls, Inc.  
Edward Paget, Jones & Phillips Associates, Inc.  
Geoffrey O. Thompson, IEEE 802.3 / Bay Networks, Inc.  
George Sabbi, BASH Theatrical Lighting  
Jerry Gorrell, Theatre Safety Programs  
Jon Ide, Electronic Theatre Controls, Inc.  
Lary Cotten, High End Systems  
Mike Rothon, Celco  
Milton Davis, Strand Lighting  
Mitch Hefter, Rosco/Entertainment Technology  
Rick Leinen, NSI Corporation  
Robert Barbagallo, Scéno Plus  
Robert Goddard, Goddard Design Co.  
Tim Bachman, Barbizon Light  
Tony Douglas-Beveridge, PLASA

1 Opening Remarks

The meeting was called to order by Steve Carlson and Steve Terry at 9:07 a.m.

2 Attendance and membership

2.1. Introductions of those present

2.2. Requirements for membership

2.3. Processing of new membership requests

Amit Resh of Compulite, Observer

Scott Blair of SMB Productions, observer

Mike Rothon of Celco, principal

Robert Barbagallo of Sceno Plus, principal

Jon Ide of ETC, alternate

All were approved without any objections

- 3 Approval of the minutes from the previous meeting  
Ted Paget moved, Bob Goddard seconded. Unanimous.

- 4 Call for patents Steve Carlson 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 disclosure 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 working group of the existence of a patent that might protect material in a standard being developed by the working group. You need not be the holder of the patent in order to notify the working group of its existence."

The Symonds patent was mentioned by Bob Goddard as a concern with our work developing a digital control protocol. Lary Cotten says it has almost expired, so it is not an issue.

The Anti-Trust Statement was also read:

"The ESTA Board of Directors, the Technical Standards Committee, and the leadership of this Working Group 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 working group may be found individually liable for any action that restrains trade taken by this working group. 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

Item 8 was moved to the first item of the agenda

Mitch Hefter requested a discussion of DMX under other business

A discussion of the procedure for forwarding standards to ANSI was also added

Ted Paget moved, Milton Davis seconded. Agenda approved.

- 6 Status report from analog control task group

Doug Fleenor presented the draft standard for analog control and solicited written comments from the working group. Steve Terry requested that people respond to Doug via e-mail and fax. Comments should be sent to Doug Fleenor by May 1. Doug will submit the second draft to Karl Ruling by June 6.

#### 7 Report from 100 Mb/s Ethernet Cabling task group

George Sabbi reported on the January task group meeting. The group has decided to completely re-write the *Recommended Practice for Ethernet Cabling Systems in Entertainment Lighting Applications*. The discussion of thick-net and thin-net have been moved to an appendix since they are now of historical interest. The book now focuses on UTP systems and fiber-optic cable. The task group intends to have the document ready for the working group by the June meeting.

#### 8 Common Ethernet protocol strategy review

Tabled. Held for task group meeting to follow the working group meeting.

#### 9 Percentage to DMX conversion table for the ESTA Website

David Bertenshaw had sent Ruling three conversion tables used by Strand. Doug Fleenor of Fleenor Design had sent a conversion table he uses, which is from the USITT ASCII cue standard. At the working group meeting, Dexter McNeil from Goddard Design gave Ruling the table Goddard Design uses. [Ed Prasser sent Ruling the ETC tables right after this working group meeting.]

The consensus was that all the tables available should be put on the ESTA web site. People will be directed to the USITT site for information about the USITT ASCII cue standard.

#### 10 Other business

The TSC will deal with the issue of forwarding draft standards to ANSI.

Mitch Hefter and Bob Goddard showed a draft of an appendix to the USITT DMX512 standard which will deal with alternate start codes. This is a USITT project that Bob Goddard is working on, but it was being presented to the members of the CP Working Group because many of them have an interest.

Ruling will send an e-mail contact list in electronic form to Bob Goddard, so he can contact people about this project via e-mail.

#### 11 Schedule for future meetings

The next meeting will be Saturday, June 28, at the Dallas/Ft. Worth Marriott in Irving, Texas.

#### 12 Adjournment

Bachman moved, Davis seconded. No objections. The working group meeting was adjourned at 10:10 a.m.

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Common Ethernet Protocol Task Group Strategy Review Meeting.

*[Note: This was a task group meeting, although it included all the people who attended the working group meeting. According to our Policies and Procedures, task groups should keep minutes, but are not required to. What follows is a rough summation of what happened.]*

Steve Terry reviewed the history of this advanced protocol project.

David Bertenshaw at the last meeting gave the working group a copy of a protocol for putting output data on an Ethernet LAN. At this meeting, Jon Ide of ETC proposed we take a broader view, and presented a memo outlining the requirements for an advanced control network protocol (ACNP) and giving some recommendations on how these requirements can be met.

Geoff Thompson suggested that the IETF (Internet Engineering Task Force) website would be a place for posting drafts of this ACNP for comment. The IETF operates outside the ANSI umbrella, but it would be a mechanism to refine the ACNP so that it could be submitted to ANSI for adoption as an American National Standard.

A group was formed to work on an ACNP document. The task group is comprised of Rick Leinen (NSI/Colortran), Ed Prasser (ETC), Jon Ide (ETC), Steve Terry (Production Arts Lighting), Steve Carlson (Rosco/ET), Dexter McNeil (Goddard Design), Amit Resh (Compulite), a member from Strand (still to be determined by Strand). Steve Carlson is to be the chair of the group. Jon Ide will be the editor. Dexter McNeil will set up a reflector for e-mail.

Some form of document will be drafted for review by the working group at the June meeting. This task group will need a segregated meeting space on June 28 or 29.

Tony Douglas-Beveridge will inform interested PLASA members of the group's work, with the caveat that draft documents are for discussion purposes only. They are not to be used for developing commercial products.

Karl Ruling will announce to ANSI the initiation of the project when a document is presented to the working group.

The task group broke for lunch. After lunch the 100 Mb/s Ethernet cabling task group continued work on the new version of the *Recommended Practice for Ethernet Cabling Systems in Entertainment Lighting Applications*.