

**Minutes**  
**Stage Machinery Working Group**  
Friday, 25 October 2024  
Marriott DFW Westlake - Westlake, TX

**Chairperson:**

Dan Culhane; Wenger Corp.; P; MP

**Recording secretary:**

Richard Nix – ESTA

**Attendees:**

Drew Becker; InterAmerica Stage, Inc.; A; CP  
Paul Brunner; WJHW Consultants; P; DE  
Ben Clark; Ben Clark; P; U  
Bruce Darden; InterAmerica Stage, Inc.; P; CP  
Bruce Downer; SERAPID, Inc.; P; CP  
Nathan Dye; Texas Scenic Company; P; MP  
Joe Golden; Joe Golden Enterprises; P; DE  
Jerry Gorrell; Theatre Safety Programs; P; G  
Jane Harrington; The Hartford Group; A; G  
Jeremy Hodgson; Jeremy Hodgson; I; G  
Christina Keryczynskij; Charcoalblue LLC; P; DE  
John Marczeski; Texas Scenic Company; A; MP  
Sam Michael; Avista Ingenuity, LLC; P; DE  
Cole Muth; Electronic Theatre Controls, Inc.; P; MP  
Reid Neslage; Reid Neslage; I; G  
Jim Niesel; Theatre Projects Consultants, Inc.; P; DE  
Jason Rasinowich; Theatre Projects Consultants, Inc.; A; DE  
Marco Robles; I.A.T.S.E. Local 80; P; G  
Matthew Saide; M.G. McLaren, P.C.; P; DE  
Michael Shaw; Motion Laboratories, Inc.; P; MP  
Steve Walker; Steve A. Walker & Associates; P; DE  
Paul Zagajeski; Wenger Corp.; A; MP

**Visitors:**

Javid Butler; Goddard Design (CPWG)  
Alec VanderBroeck; Goddard Designer  
Robert Goddard

**1 Opening Remarks**

Dan Culhane called to order at 16:02. He welcomed everyone and thanked them for taking time to attend.

**2 Patent and anti-trust statements**

Dan Culhane read the following statement aloud to the assembly.

*ESTA and its members take seriously their obligation to comply with all applicable antitrust laws. Therefore, during this meeting and during all ESTA events, all discussions will be limited to those subjects that are permitted by the antitrust laws. All members should refrain from any discussion or mention of competitively sensitive subjects such as the current or future prices charged for any member product or services, current or future marketing plans or strategies, and current or future costs, including employee salaries. There also must be no agreement on the suppliers or customers that members will or will not do business with or the markets in which members will conduct business.*

*Violations of the antitrust laws can have serious consequences. If you have any questions or concerns about anything that is discussed at an ESTA meeting, please bring your concern to ESTA management. An easy to read pamphlet describing the antitrust laws is available from the ESTA staff.*

Richard Nix held up the pamphlet. No concerns were brought forth.

## **2.2 Reading of the call for patents**

Dan Culhane read the following statement aloud to the assembly.

*ESTA intends not to publish any standard that contains protected intellectual property, unless that information can be licensed by anyone for a reasonable fee. ESTA uses a process of open patent and copyright disclosures to implement its intent. ESTA does not conduct patent or copyright searches and does not warrant that its standards contain no protected intellectual property.*

*In keeping with the open disclosures policy, I ask if anyone present wishes to notify this working group of the existence of a patent, patent application, copyright, or other protected intellectual property that might protect material in a standard being developed by this working group. You need not be the holder of the patent or copyright to notify this working group of its existence.*

Nothing was revealed.

## **3 Attendance and Membership**

Everyone introduced themselves.

### **3.1 Requirements for membership**

Dan Culhane read the following statement aloud to the assembly.

*Membership is open to all parties who are affected by the work of the group; membership in ESTA is not a requirement, but there is a \$150/person/year participation fee to help fund the costs of running the Technical Standards Program. New applications shall not be processed until the participation fee has been paid. Voting members are required to attend meetings and vote on letter ballots. Any principal member and alternate that both miss three consecutive meetings or that miss three consecutive letter ballots will have their membership status changed to observer. This action will be taken at the beginning of the first meeting after such inaction and will be recorded in the minutes of that meeting.*

### **3.2 Introduction of attendees**

### **3.3 Determination of a quorum**

*There are presently 26 possible votes. A quorum is 9, a supermajority is 14.*

Richard Nix confirmed both requirements had been met.

### **3.4 Processing of new membership and status change requests**

*As of today's meeting, the following applications and status change requests have been received:*

*Matthew Saide; McLaren Engineering Group; P; DE (new application)  
Marco Robles; I.A.T.S.E. Local 80; P; G (new application)*

Bruce Darden moved to approve the applications as submitted. The motion was seconded, and carried without objections or abstentions.

### **3.5 Changes to observer status**

#### **3.5.1 Changes due to attendance**

*The following voters have missed two consecutive meetings. If they are not in attendance today, their voting status will be changed to Observer. For voting entities with multiple representatives, only one need be present.*

*Mike Brubaker; CM Buck & Associates  
Matt Jordan; Production Resource Group  
Troy Atkinson; Production Resource Group  
Bruce Downer; Serapid, Inc*

All were present.

### 3.5.2 Changes due to missed letter ballots

*The following voting entities have missed two consecutive letter ballots. Their voting status will be changed to Observer if the next letter ballot is missed.*

*There are none.*

### 3.5.3 Automatic status changes

*There are none.*

### 3.6 Consensus body

*The table below shows the full consensus voting body after this meeting's actions.*

<b>Name</b>	<b>Representing</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Int Cat</b>
Peter A. Scheu	Amer. Society of Theatre Consultants	P	DE
R. Duane Wilson	Amer. Society of Theatre Consultants	A	DE
Sam Michael	Avista Ingenuity LLC	P	DE
Christina Keryczynskij	Charcoalblue LLC	P	DE
Charles McCafferty	Cirque du Soliel Entertainment Group	P	U
Ben Clark	Ben Clark	P	U
Cole Muth	Electronic Theatre Controls, Inc.	P	MP
Bruce Darden	InterAmerica Stage, Inc.	P	CP
Drew Becker	InterAmerica Stage, Inc.	A	CP
Jeremy Hodgson	Jeremy Hodgson	I	G
Joe Golden	Joe Golden Enterprises	P	DE
Marco Robles	I.A.T.S.E. Local 80	P	G
Matthew Siade	M.G. McLaren, P.C.	P	DE
Michael Shaw	Motion Laboratories, Inc.	P	MP
Rick Montgomery	Motion Laboratories, Inc.	A	MP
Joseph Jeremy	Niscon (LFT)	P	CP
Reid Neslage	Reid Neslage	I	G
Richard J. Nix	Richard J. Nix	I	G
Jesse Adams	Rose Brand Wipers, Inc	P	DR
Bruce Downer	SERAPID, Inc.	P	CP
Steve Walker	Steve A. Walker & Associates	P	DE
Julian Hoare	Tait Towers Manufacturing LLC	P	CP
Jim Love	Tait Towers Manufacturing LLC	A	CP
Chris Peterson	Tait Towers Manufacturing LLC	A	CP
Craig Roberts	Tait Towers Manufacturing LLC	A	CP

Nathan Dye	Texas Scenic Company	P	MP
John Marczeski	Texas Scenic Company	A	MP
Steven Serafin	The Hartford Group	P	G
Jane Harrington	The Hartford Group	A	G
Jim Niesel	Theatre Projects Consultants, Inc.	P	DE
Jason Rasinowich	Theatre Projects Consultants, Inc.	A	DE
Jerry Gorrell	Theatre Safety Programs	P	G
Dan Culhane	Wenger Corp.	P	MP
Peter V. Svitavsky	Wenger Corp.	A	MP
Paul Zagajeski	Wenger Corp.	A	MP
Leigh Witek	Wenger Corp.	A	MP
Paul Brunner	WJHW Consultants	P	DE
Robert Dean	ZFX, Inc.	P	CP
<b>Total possible votes:</b>		<b>26</b>	
	Custom market producer (CP)	5	
	Designer (DE)	9	
	Dealer rental company (DR)	1	
	General interest (G)	6	
	Mass-market producer (MP)	4	
	User (U)	1	
<b>Voting status key:</b> P = Principal voter, A = Alternate voter, I = Individual voter			

#### 4 Approval of the minutes from the last meeting

[See *SMmin07-2024\_Draft.pdf*]

Bruce Darden moved to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion was seconded, and carried without objections or abstentions.

#### 5 Approval of agenda

Bruce Darden moved to approve the agenda. Seconded. Richard Nix asked to add an agenda item under new business for sale of standards. The motion carried as amended without objections or abstentions.

#### 6 Old Business

##### 6.1 ANSI E1.42-2023, Safety Standard for Entertainment Lifts (*reaffirm, revise, or withdraw by 10 December 2028*)

*Any news or action?*

No action required.

##### 6.2 ANSI E1.44 – 2014 (R2024), Common Show File Exchange Format for Entertainment Industry Automation Control Systems -- Stage Machinery (*reaffirm, revise, or withdraw by 04 September 2029*)

*It's published!*

### **6.3 ANSI E1.64 - 2024, Stage Machinery Control Systems in the Entertainment Industry**

*(Reaffirm, revise or withdraw by 17 June 2029)*

*Any news or action?*

No action required.

### **6.4 ANSI E1.71 – 2023, Powered Curtain Machines** *(reaffirm, revise, or withdraw by 10 December 2028)*

*Any news or action?*

No action required.

### **6.5 ANSI E1.72 – 2023, Powered Floor Machines** *(reaffirm, revise, or withdraw by 18 September 2028)*

*Any news or action?*

No action required.

### **6.6 BSR E1.82, Unidirectional Machine Controls**

*Jesse Adams, Mike Brubaker. Jerry Gorrell. Joe Jeremy, Paul Zagajeski, Matt Jordan, and Jem Hodgson. The task group also includes four people from CPWG, including Javid Butler and Paul Beasley, who are not part of the Stage Machinery Working Group's consensus body.*

*Any news or action?*

As a CPWG representative to the task group, Javid Butler reported. They have been meeting regularly every two weeks. The recent survey was very useful in terms of feedback on use of NULL start code or alternate start codes (ASC). Based on feedback the task group is working on advisories for both, but the bulk of requirements will be based on alternate start codes. He explained how ASC works in this type of context. Dan Culhane asked how this would work in conjunction with legacy DMX systems and NULL start codes. Javid said it would not work, and they are discussing how to accommodate that scenario. One method of accommodation is to provide a hold-to-run type of arrangement that would allow ASC data to be interjected. Richard Nix asked if this means everything works in the same data stream. Javid affirmed it would. Bruce Darden asked if it works on the same universe. Javid said the standard will provide guidance on how to manage it in a networked environment. The protocol will also allow messages to accommodate more complex movement. He said the task group will appreciate any additional feedback: Please contact Jesse Adams.

Bruce Darden asked how long it might take to get to a review-level draft. Javid did not want to speak on behalf of the task group, but said he thought it would take several more quarterly meetings to get to that point. Bruce Darden asked if this might also result in new chip or code requirements in firmware. Javid said it will be implementation specific. Generally speaking, any existing hardware is already coded to manage the data. However, space to accommodate new or additional code may be unavailable, or may be insufficient, depending upon the specific hardware implementation.

## **7 New business**

## **8 Other business and announcements**

### **8.1 ESTA standards for sale**

Richard Nix said that the topic of ending free downloads, and beginning to charge for downloaded standards is being discussed. He asked how the working group members felt about this, and – as important – how they perceived that their industry constituents (outside of the TSP) might react to such a change. Bruce Darden supports sale with a discount structure for the industry network. Bob Goddard said that management of watermarks can be tedious - DMX documents in various stages of development are everywhere, and it's been difficult to reign older copies back in. Dan Culhane said free standards have done a lot for improving safety in

our industry. Steve Walker asked if they could be available free with limited online access like NFPA or ICC. Yes, that's possible, with the caveat of whatever the implementation costs might be. There was more discussion, and several other suggestions were made, such as per-user access on subscription basis, and placing them behind a paywall, as before. Individual sponsorship, or sponsorship of individual standards documents based on working group or subject matter are also creative solutions. Richard Nix thanked everyone for this discussion.

Dan Culhane mentioned Don Earl's recently made \$50,000 donation to the TSP, made as a challenge grant, asking the industry to match his contribution. He asked everyone to consider making their own contribution.

### **8.1 Above & Beyond Awards**

*Information on the Above & Beyond Awards may be found at [http://tsp.esta.org/tsp/news/award\\_recipients.html](http://tsp.esta.org/tsp/news/award_recipients.html). The nomination site is open year round, and the award is designed for members to highlight the work of their peers. The deadline for nominations is 01 November.*

Dan Culhane said, *"the deadline approaches quickly, so get to it!"*

### **9 Schedule for future meetings**

*The meeting schedule is posted at <http://www.esta.org/ESTA/meetings.php>. The Winter 2025 meetings will return to Anaheim, CA in conjunction with the 2025 NAMM Show, during the week of 20 January 2025.*

Richard Nix noted the short timeline between NAMM and USITT, asking if the group needed a meeting slot. A straw poll showed only 8 people planning to attend USITT. This working group has one active project with no other projects requiring procedural action until 2028.

### **10 Adjournment**

Dan Culhane thanks everyone for attending, then adjourned the meeting at 17:09.

Stage Machinery Working Group members as of 25 October 2024

<b>Name</b>	<b>Representing</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Int cat</b>
Jesse Adams	Rose Brand Wipers, Inc	P	DR
Troy Atkinson	Production Resource Group	O	CP
Drew Becker	InterAmerica Stage, Inc.	A	CP
Justin Bennett	University of the Incarnate Word	O	U
Daniel Brinker	USITT	O	G
Mike Brubaker	CM Buck Associates	O	DR
Paul Brunner	WJHW Consultants	P	DE
Joseph Champelli	Entertainment Project Services, LLC	O	CP
Ben Clark	Ben Clark	P	U
Gareth Conner	Creative Conners, Inc.	O	MP
Dan Culhane	Wenger Corp.	P	MP
Bruce Darden	InterAmerica Stage, Inc.	P	CP
Robert Dean	ZFX, Inc.	P	CP
Jim Digby	Event Safety Alliance	O	U
Bruce Downer	SERAPID, Inc.	P	CP
Nathan Dye	Texas Scenic Company	P	MP
Sanford P. Gilzow	Shur-Rig LLC	O	DR
Joe Golden	Joe Golden Enterprises	P	DE
Tiny Good	Showtech Australia	O	U
Jerry Gorrell	Theatre Safety Programs	P	G
Jane Harrington	The Hartford Group	A	G
Robert Haycock	Robert Haycock	O	U
Phil Heid	Creative Stage Lighting Co., Inc.	O	DR
Julian Hoare	Tait Towers Manufacturing LLC	P	CP
Jeremy Hodgson	Jeremy Hodgson	I	G
Joseph Jeremy	Niscon (LFT)	P	CP
Matt Jordan	Production Resource Group	O	CP

Stage Machinery Working Group members as of 25 October 2024

<b>Name</b>	<b>Representing</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Int cat</b>
Christina Keryczynskij	Charcoalblue LLC	P	DE
Edwin S. Kramer	1501	O	U
Jim Love	Tait Towers Manufacturing LLC	A	CP
John Marczeski	Texas Scenic Company	A	MP
Charles McCafferty	Cirque du Soliel Entertainment Group	P	U
Sam Michael	Avista Ingenuity, LLC	P	DE
Rick Montgomery	Motion Laboratories, Inc.	A	MP
Cole Muth	Electronic Theatre Controls, Inc.	P	MP
Reid Neslage	Reid Neslage	I	G
Jim Niesel	Theatre Projects Consultants, Inc.	P	DE
Richard J. Nix	Richard J. Nix	I	G
Chris Peterson	Tait Towers Manufacturing LLC	A	CP
Kurt Pragman	Pragman Associates, LLC	O	G
Jason Rasinowich	Theatre Projects Consultants, Inc.	A	DE
Craig Roberts	Tait Towers Manufacturing LLC	A	CP
Marco Robles	I.A.T.S.E. Local 80	P	G
Matthew Saide	M.G. McLaren, P.C.	P	DE
Peter A. Scheu	Amer. Society of Theatre Consultants	P	DE
Steven Serafin	The Hartford Group	P	G
Michael Shaw	Motion Laboratories, Inc.	P	MP
Peter V. Svitavsky	Wenger Corp.	A	MP
Kevin Taylor	Tait Towers Manufacturing LLC	O	CP
Christopher B. Tilton	About the Stage, LLC	O	DE
Michael Wade	Creative Connors, Inc.	O	MP
Steve Walker	Steve A. Walker & Associates	P	DE
R. Duane Wilson	Amer. Society of Theatre Consultants	A	DE
Leigh Witek	Wenger Corp.	A	MP



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Paul Zagajeski	Wenger Corp.	A	MP