

## Welcome Newest Members

Combined  
Conditional  
Access and  
Development LLC  
Broadlogic  
Discovery  
Communications  
SmarDTV

## New SCTE Projects

Since the last issue of the *SCTE Standards Bulletin*, a number of new projects have been initiated. Anyone wishing further information should contact the SCTE Standards Secretariat at [standards@scte.org](mailto:standards@scte.org). Automatic e-mail notification is available through Standards Alert—sign up directly at [www.scte.org](http://www.scte.org).

### Hybrid Management Sub-Layer Subcommittee (HMS)

Revisions of SCTE 38-4 and SCTE 38-6  
HMS 154, *HMS Digital Video Monitoring*

### Interface Practices Subcommittee (IPS)

Revisions of SCTE 16 and SCTE 17  
IPS TP 416, *Test Procedure for Cantilever Force*  
IPS TP 902, *Test Method for Mainline Connector Cable Twist Rotation*

### Digital Video Subcommittee (DVS)

Revisions of SCTE 30 and SCTE 118-2

### Data Standards Subcommittee (DSS)

DSS 06-04, *DOCSIS® 3.0 specifications for Layer 2 Private Virtual networks*  
DSS 06-06, *Security Services for third-generation transmission systems*  
DSS 06-07, *MAC and Upper Layer Protocols for third-generation transmission systems*  
DSS 06-08, *Physical Layer Protocols for third-generation transmission systems*

## China

China will adopt a digital TV broadcast standard (GB 20600-2006) combining systems developed by Tsinghua and Shanghai Jiaotong Universities. The standard, which is said to become effective in August 2007, bypasses patents held by companies outside China. The title of the document is *National Standard of the P.R.C. Framing Structure, Channel Coding and Modulation for Digital Television Terrestrial Broadcasting*. This 128-page document is available from the SCTE Standards Secretariat in simplified Chinese.

Meanwhile, a DTV alliance is being formed in China to develop intellectual property to help reduce patent royalty payments outside China. The alliance is led by the China Video Industry Association (CVIA) and includes 13 TV manufacturers.

The U.S. Department of Commerce's International Trade Administration has provided access to a document from the Chinese government titled *Compulsory Product Certification Guidelines*, which ITA understands would apply to the administrative measures for the China Compulsory Certification system. This is a work in progress and almost certainly will change. However, a rough translation of the Chinese announcement is available from the SCTE Standards Secretariat. E-mail [standards@scte.org](mailto:standards@scte.org).

## A Word From Steve

Government legislative/regulatory activities are becoming increasingly important to the standards process. In this issue, we note activities in Europe, China, and the United States. There are also many discussions going on in the standards community over antitrust and what standards-developing organizations like SCTE can and cannot do—things like allowing discussions of patent licensing terms. We'll keep you up-to-date as these initiatives mature—but you can call the SCTE Standards Secretariat any time for the latest information.



# Standards Elsewhere

**TIA** has published TIA-921, *Network Model for Evaluating Multimedia Transmission Performance over Internet Protocol*; TIA-157, *IP Modem Functional Capabilities Description*; and (with ATIS) ANSI/J-STD-025-B, a revision of *Lawfully Authorized Electronic Surveillance*.

**Telcordia** has published a set of documents on Fiber Distribution Hubs. The set includes GR-3121, *Generic Requirements for Below-Ground Fiber Distribution Hub (FDH) Closures*; GR-3123, *Generic Requirements for Indoor Fiber Distribution Hub (FDH) Closures*; and GR-3125, *Generic Requirements for Outdoor Fiber Distribution Hub (FDH) Closures*.

**CEA** has announced the public review of standards effort CEA 2021, *Interoperable Self-Installation (ISI)*. The standard will allow devices on a home control network to automatically discover each other and exchange data by providing application layer services for the ANSI/CEA 709.1 protocol. CEA also has announced a new project for an ANSI standard on *Digital STB Active Power Consumption Measurement*.

**ATSC** has approved Amendment No. 2 to A/53E, *Digital Television Standard*; A/70A, *Conditional Access System for Terrestrial Broadcast*; A/102, *ACAP Service Signalling and Announcement*; A76A, *Programming Metadata Communication Protocol (PMCP)*; and A78, *Transport Stream Verification Recommended Practice*. All ATSC standards are available through the ATSC website at <http://www.atsc.org>.

**ATIS** has announced the public review (as a trial use standard) of ATIS 0500006, *EISI (Emergency Information Services Interface) ALI Service*.

**IEEE** has announced that to facilitate progress in the development of the 802.20 wireless standard, the Working Group is being reorganized. All current officers will be replaced and the balloting group reconstituted. The WG will remain suspended until a new chair is appointed, which was expected to happen in November.

**ISO** has established a new project committee, ISO/PC 231, to work on the development of a standard in the field of brand evaluation. The project was initiated by the German national standards body DIN, which will hold the chair and secretariat.

## New Organizations & Initiatives

The **V2oIP Quality Alliance** aims “to advance the adoption of voice and video over IP and ensure a high level of customer satisfaction by defining and disseminating industry best practices related to V2oIP quality, reliability and performance.”

The **DSL Forum** has announced that it plans to address broadband beyond strictly DSL, working on three areas—BroadbandControl for device management; BroadbandAccess for network architectures; and BroadbandHome for unification of the home networking environment.

A **consortium of TV manufacturers** (Matsushita, Sony, Sharp, Toshiba, and Hitachi) is working to establish a standard for televisions that will receive video programming directly off the Internet.

**ECI Telecom** has announced the formation of a new consortium designed to “spearhead the development and implementation of Dynamic Spectrum Management” to increase DSL speed. The group is funded by a \$10 million grant from the Israeli government. Members include Telefonica I y D, Bezeq, Actelis, RIT Technologies, Amethyst, and Tel Aviv University.

The **Digital Watermarking Alliance** has been formed to promote the value of digital watermarking to content owners, industry, policymakers, and consumers. Details are at [www.digitalwatermarkingalliance.org](http://www.digitalwatermarkingalliance.org).

# Newly Approved Standards

Since the last issue of the *SCTE Standards Bulletin*, the SCTE Engineering Committee has approved the following as SCTE standards:

**SCTE 15 2006** *Specification for Trunk, Feeder and Distribution Coaxial Cable* (reaffirmation)

**SCTE 19 2006** *Methods for Isochronous Data Service Transport* (revision)

**SCTE 48-1 2006** *Test Method for Shielding Effectiveness: Part 1—GTEM Method for RF Signal*

**SCTE 113 2006** *Management Interface for GigE Transport Devices*

**SCTE 123 2006** *“F” Port (Male Outdoor) Physical Dimensions*

**SCTE 124 2006** *Male “F” Ports*

Since the last issue of the *SCTE Standards Bulletin*, ANSI has approved SCTE 01, 11, 12, 13, 15, 21, 24-1 through 24-13, 25-1, and 67 (revisions), plus 101, 116, 118-1, 118-2, 120, 121, and 122. As of Nov. 11, 171 standards have been approved by SCTE, and of those, 167 have been approved by ANSI as American National Standards.

## European Metric Directive

Companies that sell products in the European Union should be aware that as of Jan. 1, 2010, the Metric Directive comes into effect. This makes it illegal to use anything other than metric measures in product labeling or any other documentation associated with the product—including product catalogs, specification sheets, and instruction manuals. The common custom of dual units as in “9.13 meters (10 yards)” also will be illegal. This means, for example, that a set-up manual for a television cannot say “viewers should sit at least three meters (nine feet) from the set”—only metric units are allowed. There are still discussions going on with regard to interpretations about things like wire gauge (not an approved metric unit) and calories (the metric unit is the joule), but the principle is clear. The Europeans also have mentioned that it applies to the Internet (e.g., downloadable specifications or catalogs), but it is unclear what enforcement mechanisms might be provided. The issue is complicated by the U.S. Federal Fair Packaging and Labeling Act (FPLA), which forbids metric-only labeling for some consumer products.

# Committees & Subcommittees

The following information outlines our standards development structure. For up-to-date meeting schedule information, visit the Standards section of the SCTE website at [www.scte.org](http://www.scte.org).

## Engineering Committee

Focus: Management of the SCTE Standards Program  
Chair: Charlie Kenamer, Comcast

## Cable Applications Platform Subcommittee (CAP)

Focus: Standards for applications platform development  
Chair: Jean-Pol Zundel, Comcast

## Data Standards Subcommittee (DSS)

Focus: Standards for data services delivery  
Chair: David Fellows, Comcast

## Digital Video Subcommittee (DVS)

Focus: Standards for digital video signal delivery  
Chair: Dr. Paul Hearty, Ryerson University

## Emergency Alert Systems Subcommittee (EAS)

Focus: Cable television's participation in the EAS program  
Chair: Steve Johnson, Time Warner

## Hybrid Management Sub-Layer Subcommittee (HMS)

Focus: Protocol suites for management systems involving hybrid fiber/coax networks  
Chair: Hung Nguyen, Time Warner

## Interface Practices and In-Home Cabling Subcommittee (IPS)

Focus: Standards for the cables, connectors and housings used in broadband telecommunications distribution plants  
Chair: Brian James, B&W Engineering

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The U.S. government is talking to the European Commission in the hopes of getting the Directive amended, but the consensus is that this will happen only if European companies and trade associations come out strongly in favor of continuing the practice of letting individual industries determine the most appropriate way of stating measures.

A copy of the U.S. Department of Commerce's bulletin on the subject is available from the SCTE Standards Secretariat.

## Proposed U.S. Intellectual Property Legislation

In 1995, Congress enacted the National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act, which directed government agencies to use private sector standards (where feasible) from voluntary consensus standards bodies (defined as having openness, balance, due process, appeals process, and consensus as defined in Office Management and Budget circular OMB A-119). This was followed in 2004 by the Standards Development Organization Advancement Act, which provided some antitrust protection (mostly against triple damages) for activities performed in those same organizations.

The current hot topic in standards development is intellectual property in standards and, in particular, the licensing of “essential” patents. Historically, standards development organizations have deemed discussion of licensing to be a matter fraught with antitrust danger and, thus, have excluded any discussion from the standards process. (SCTE’s procedures prohibit such discussion.) However, there is now a growing belief on the part of some companies (and some support from the Federal Trade Commission and Department of Justice) that licensing discussions may be pro-competitive.

This has led to the proposed Transparency in Standard Setting Act of 2006 introduced by high-tech companies. While this has not been formally introduced into Congress as of this writing, drafts have been circulating among congressional staff. Key elements of the legislation are (a) it applies to both issued and pending patents and (b) a standards organization’s requirement to disclose licensing terms, require RAND licensing or sponsorship of a patent pool and participation therein will not violate federal or state law. The bill also defines “reasonable” in terms of economic value, prohibition of suits against prospective licensees, contractual binding on future IPR owners, and application to future revisions of the standard. Detailed language of the current draft is available from the SCTE Standards Secretariat.

## ITU Blesses SCTE Standard

At its October plenary, ITU (International Telecommunication Union) Study Group 9 approved SCTE 67-2006, *Applications Guidelines for SCTE 35 2001*, as an amendment to Recommendation J.181, *Digital program insertion cueing message for cable television systems, Appendix i*.



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