

Board Minutes
Advanced Television Systems Committee, Inc.
Teleconference
April 25, 2007

1. **Call to Order; Determination of Quorum; Approval of Agenda** Chairman Glenn Reitmeier (NBC-U) called the meeting to order at 1:32 PM. The Attendance List is **ATTACHMENT 1**. A quorum was determined. The agenda (**ATTACHMENT 2**) was approved as drafted.
2. **Opening Comments** (G. Reitmeier)
Mr. Reitmeier congratulated everyone on the timeliness associated with their quick actions regarding the NWIP on Mobile/Handheld. He also congratulated the staff on a very successful ATSC DTV HotSpot at the NAB conference.
3. **Consideration of the March 28, 2007 Draft Minutes**
Sterling Davis (Cox Broadcasting) made a motion to approve the March 28th, 2007 minutes (**ATTACHMENT 3**) as presented. The motion was seconded by John Godfrey (Samsung) and approved.
4. **FCC Receiver Test Results**
Mr. Reitmeier said that he had some significant concerns about the ATSC receiver test results recently released by the FCC. He suggested that the Board consider the ramifications of the test results especially in a post analog world and the possible need to revise the ATSC Recommended Practice on Receiver Performance Guidelines (A/74). Mr. Davis voiced concern that none of the receivers tested by the FCC met all of the performance specifications in the Recommended Practice and therefore revising A/74 might not change the actual performance of products in the marketplace. Brian Markwalter (CEA) agreed, indicating that he did not think that tightening the recommended performance in A/74 was the right approach. Mr. Godfrey pointed out that the FCC's purpose for conducting the tests was to provide data for the proceedings regarding the use of unlicensed devices in the white spaces. He said that based upon the test results, he thought the FCC would proceed cautiously regarding use of the white spaces. Victor Tawil (MSTV) said that his organization interprets the test results in that way. Joe Flaherty (CBS) said that this highlights the fact that the use of white spaces is a serious issue for the broadcasting industry. Mr. Richer said that based upon the number of inquiries received by the ATSC staff, A/74 seems to be a highly used document. He went on to say that if TSG is to consider revision of A/74, they cannot just tighten one part of the RP because many of the parameters are the result of a technical balancing act. Mr. Richer said he has heard suggestions that consideration should be given to revision of A/74 to make it consistent with the recommendations made by CEA, MSTV and NAB regarding the NTIA digital to analog converter program.

Mr. Markwalter (CEA) said that he did not agree that the joint NTIA filing should be motivation for revision of A/74. Mr. Reitmeier said he was concerned about the practical ramifications of the FCC tests, especially in terms of allocations. He suggested that perhaps ATSC should review these issues and provide input to the FCC. Lynn Claudy (NAB) said that the state of the art in receiver design has improved significantly since A/74 was developed and that the FCC was able to develop targets that are not contained in the Recommended Practice. He went on to say that he thought that ATSC should consider the technical parameters contained in the NTIA filing when considering revision of A/74. Mr. Claudy said that he did not think ATSC should take a position on the proceedings regarding the use of white spaces. Mr. Tawil said that while the receiver performance issue has an impact on the current service, the ramifications will be far more serious with the use of white spaces. Jay Adrick said they observed a number of unlicensed interfering signals when conducting demonstrations in Las Vegas during the NAB convention.

Mr. Reitmeier suggested formation of an Ad Hoc Group to address (i) issues related to the FCC tests, (ii) whether ATSC should take a position regarding the use of white spaces and (iii) whether the Board should recommend revision of A/74. Jay Adrick, John Godfrey, Brian Markwalter, Joe Flaherty, Andy Scott, Lynn Claudy, Victor Tawil and Mark Richer agreed to participate in the Ad Hoc Group. Mr. Richer agreed to lead the effort and report back to the Board at its next meeting.

5. Annual Meeting Agenda (M. Richer)

Mr. Richer thanked Samsung, Tandberg TV, and Zenith-LG for agreeing to sponsor the Annual Meeting. He said that the Keynote speaker will be Andy Waldeck from Innosight. Mr. Richer reviewed the meeting program (**ATTACHMENT 4**) with the Board.

6. 2007 ATSC Board Retreat (M. Richer)

Mr. Richer said the Board Retreat will be held at the Morrison House in Alexandria, VA. It will start at 10 AM on July 11, and end by 3 pm on July 12. Mr. Reitmeier suggested that the retreat include a review and possible update of the Strategic Plan.

Mr. Richer suggested that the group considering 1080P@60 led by Joe Flaherty report on their work during the retreat. Mr. Reitmeier suggested that the group's charter be broader and consider improvements in video and audio quality so that it can consider other advancements such as 3-D. Mr. Flaherty agreed to take on the broader task, but thought the initial work should focus on 1080P@60.

Mr. Reitmeier suggested that the retreat include a discussion of the concept of creating a roadmap to develop standards in a phased approach. He said that in addition to ATSC 2.0, there could be an ATSC-M/H 2.0 or ATSC-NRT 2.0. Graham Jones (NAB) agreed to chair an Ad Hoc Group to consider this concept and prepare some ideas for the retreat. Mr. Godfrey, Mr. Reitmeier and Mr. Richer agreed to participate.

Mr. Claudy and Mr. Tawil agreed to provide a presentation during the retreat on the post transition RF environment. Mr. Tawil said that he thought that their findings could have an influence on the requirements for ATSC 2.0.

7. TSG Report (W. Miller)

Mr. Miller reported that TSG has not met since the approval of the NWIP for the Mobile/Handheld (MH) Standard. Mr. Miller said that he plans to recommend that TSG setup a new specialist group for the M/H standard work. Mr. Reitmeier said that it was important that TSG develop a work plan and schedule for the project. He suggested that TSG determine the window for submitting proposals for M/H so that it can be announced during the Annual Meeting. Mr. Miller agreed to work with Mr. Richer to define a process to make this possible.

8. PC Report (G. Jones)

Mr. Jones reported a change in the leadership of the ACAP Demonstration and Field Trial project. Dan Berkowitz (NBC-U) has indicated that he will be unable to continue as the group's leader due to some new responsibilities at NBC. Mr. Jones thanked Mr. Berkowitz for his efforts. Mr. Jones said that he will lead the group until a formal chairman is appointed. Jerry Whitaker (ATSC) reported that the ACAP demonstration in the DTV Hot Spot was a big success. Mr. Jones said that additional demonstrations are being planned. Mr. Richer noted that as a result of the project, there are some recommended revisions to the ACAP Standard including some to address OCAP/ACAP interoperability. Mr. Jones said that the Planning Committee planned to provide input to TSG regarding recommended changes to the Standard.

Mr. Jones reported that the work on requirements for a non-real-time (NRT) standard is moving forward, but he was not positive that it would be ready for final Board approval by the time of the next Board meeting. Mr. Reitmeier suggested posting a draft version of the NRT NWIP to the Board reflector.

Mr. Jones said that he had not yet identified a chair for the ATSC 2.0 project. He said that the effort on fixed indoor reception may end up being rolled into the 2.0 project.

9. Sony Patent Statement Review (M. Richer)

The Board reviewed the Patent Statement (**ATTACHMENT 5**) regarding the ATSC Digital Television Standard Doc. A/53-4-2006, Part 4 MPEG-2 Video System Characteristics, User Data from Sony Electronics, Inc. Ed Barrett (Sony) stated that he would not participate in the review. There were no comments from the Board regarding the Patent Statement.

10. Schedule of Future Board Meetings

Future meetings are scheduled as follows:

May 18, 8:00 AM, PBS

July 11 & 12 (Retreat)

August 14, 1:00 PM (tentative conferences call)

September 26

December 12

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:05 PM