

ISDCF Main Meeting Notes – October 2, 2024  
In Person at Harman / Zoom

ISDCF Sponsoring Companies



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Upcoming Meetings

*Wednesday November 13, 2024 8am Audio Demo at Regency Van Nuys*

Wednesday November 13, 2024 11am - Location Harman/Zoom

*(Possible Audio demo at Deluxe on Wednesday January 15 afternoon?)*

Thursday January 16, 2025 10am - Location TBD (Just after ICTA/LASS)

*(Possible closed caption/iPhone demo on Friday January 17?)*

**Part 1: General Reporting**

## Housekeeping:

- Zoom meeting (provided by ISDCF)
- Set next meeting dates (above).
- Thank you ISDCF for support of the Chairman.
- Thank you to Dean Bullock for providing general expenses and admin support.
- Meeting notes from August 8, 2024 approved and to post to open website
- Legal reminder / press reminder / Antitrust Disclaimer. The official antitrust guidelines are posted on our website and are linked from the main ISDCF page. A short verbal overview of guidelines was given. Please no social media for discussions held at ISDCF.

## Organizational Issues:

### **InterSociety Board:**

President: Steve LLamb

VP: Reiner Doetzkie

Secretary / Treasurer: Dean Bullock

Executive Director: Jerry Pierce - and chairman ISDCF

Members: Susie Beiersdorf, Mark Collins, Sean Romano, Don Tannenbaum, Mark Waterston

Intersociety used to be the organization to facilitate communication between organizations. It served that role for years, but in the last 10 years or so it's mission was not needed and/or organizations lost interest given other means of communication. The need remains and the Intersociety Board is exploring ways to bring back this mission, especially with the apparent decline of the Cinema Foundation, which appeared to be set to fill that role. Watch this space.

**InterSociety financial status** (about \$16K in the bank). Everything is normal. Invoices will be issued for 2025 after November meeting.

**ISDCF LinkedIn** account has been more active. We encourage participation and cross promotion. We posted the audio test information for the demo yesterday.

Attendance is at end of these notes.

### **Action Items from October 2, 2024**

1. Write up recommended practice for the audio test content. Including the objectives of each of the segment of the test content.

2. Reach out to get Japanese subtitle test content to post on ISDCF, if possible.
3. Ask Yoshi to post his observations to the ISDCF members reflector
4. Start planning on a demonstration of closed caption demo for January (both in-band and cloud delivery methods)
5. Ask that the notes on Deadpool subtitle issues be posted to the ISDCF members reflector
6. Create an issue tracker for topics that come up in ISDCF (like Japanese subtitles)
7. Barco to provide the CTT name for Light Steering content.
8. Call a meeting for planning of a one-day conference at CinemaCon/ICTA
9. Respond to ICTA call for content for the January ICTA / LA Seminar Series.
10. Consider methods to encourage new folks to participate in theatrical ecosystem
11. Implement a monitoring system for the Amazon to prevent abuse.
12. Call a subgroup to find alternative to CTT in total workflow

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## Audio Test Material

Yesterday was the world premiere of ISDCF's audio test material. The content was created to expose known issues that comes from non-perf screens (like LED walls). We want to verify that sounds are anchored in known positions in the theater and deal with room acoustics/reflections. The mission is primarily to have content to help sound designers in construction and alignment of theater sound systems.

The content (DCP) is posted to <https://isdcf.com/audiotest> for download (no encryption).

Big shout out to Brian Vessa for putting the audio content together. To Drea Weiler for sharing her voice. Jerry Pierce for the images and making the Resolve session for on-screen descriptions. Eikon for construction of the DCP and to Steve Lamb/Jerry Pierce for herding the efforts.

We may need a recommended practice document to describe what it was designed to do and how to use it. We need to have an opinion on what each segment should sound like.

The demo at Deluxe Flower facility was a smaller room and was very easy to hear the localization. A larger room will be telling. We are planning to do a demonstration prior to the next meeting (November 13, 2024) at 8am at the Regency Van Nuys where there is both an LED screen and a normal theater. This will push our ISDCF meeting to 11am. Culver City (Amazon) is another option for a demo.

We have a lot to learn about the test content in a variety of locations. If we need to modify the content it would be good to begin the planning.

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## Global SMPTE Roll Out

There was a description posted by Yoshi on LinkedIn on this topic. This is an FYI for the group. The information provided seems good. The summary is:

### Japanese subtitles and the possibility of SMPTE DCP migration

- The display problem with Japanese subtitles also occurs with Interop DCP, and there is no technical causal relationship with the transition to SMPTE DCP.
- The reason why Japanese subtitle display problems occur even in Interop DCP is thought to be that, compared to the original implementation, many different subtitle rendering functions have been released on the market without proper operation testing.
- Given that there are a wide variety of subtitle rendering implementations with different behaviors on the market, it is not wise to blindly proceed with the transition from Interop DCP to SMPTE-DCP without having a concrete improvement plan.
- ***We strongly recommend that DCI, which oversees certification testing for digital cinema projection systems, compile a test plan that includes verification items that focus on the unique characteristics of Japanese subtitles. We also expect companies that implement subtitle rendering functions to quickly respond to the new verification items, including those for existing products. We believe that the transition to SMPTE DCP should only be made after the effectiveness of such responses has been fully verified in actual theaters that use Interop DCP.***

(The full article is attached as a .pdf to these meeting notes.)

We still need to address this. Some studios are burning in the subtitles or providing .png subtitles to overcome these problems. No matter what are the possibilities of solving the problem, it is clear this is a mess with existing titles, need to upgrade current hardware, etc.

There is need for test content. Test content has been prepared as part of the subtitling subcommittee, but we don't have immediate access to this content. We will reach out to see if we can make it available. If it could be included as part of DCI/CTP it would be the best approach. While there is a need for test material we also need a description of how it should be rendered - suitable for a developer to implement.

Note: There is some concern that the discussion is not being held or documented in the ISDCF group. It is hard to address a concern that we know about, but the details are not shared.

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### **Smart Phones / Accessibility**

The audio test material has a closed caption track. This content could be suitable for demonstrations of smart phone rendering systems. Should ISDCF open the demo for smart phones/AR glasses? It should be open to many vendors to show their systems. This may be appropriate for January demonstrations of both DCP/in-band delivery and cloud based out-of-band delivery.

Need to contact hardware manufacturers and Cinema Foundation to see if they want to participate. We also need to verify the current content meets the needs (we may need content that has the ability to include alternative languages in addition to closed captions).

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### **Playback issues - Subtitle issue**

No update for this meeting. [Subtitle/playback problems on some equipment (Deadpool 3)]

Maybe we need a demonstration/plugfest of the CTP content for subtitles to see if there is a gap between the current test content and problems found in the field.

Waiting for the other subgroup to discuss. Asking for notes of other group to be sent to the ISDCF members' reflector.

Note: There is some concern that the discussion is not being held or documented in the ISDCF group. It is hard to address a concern that we know about, but the details are not shared.

Need for general ISDCF industry topic tracker.

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### **Barco HDR Labeling**

Barco has 5 installations using the Barco Light Steering HDR projectors. Barco has been releasing content to play on these projector displays. The question has been raised on how to label this content - both for metadata in the CPL and in the naming convention. The content spec is very similar to the DCI-HDR specification, with a restriction on the ability to create a full-frame 300 nit level. If it is mastered on the Barco system it will probably look very similar, but not look exactly the same, on an LED system. A title mastered using DCI-HDR will look very similar MOST OF THE TIME, except when it doesn't. The colorimetry and peak white is the same as DCI-HDR.

Studios have begun indicating in the CTT/Naming Convention that the content was designed for Barco Light Steering. It was introduced as an issue in the GitHub naming convention registry. What do to?

Barco needs to provide a link on their website with the description of Light steering for a "Metadata Defining Document."

We do encourage the use of a shorter name for the CTT since there is always an issue of too many characters in the CTT.

BarcoHDR? >> HDR2? HDRB? BLS? HDR-LS? It's up to Barco to decide on which name to use.

Should we be using the marketing term "HDR" for technical descriptions in these discussion and in the naming convention. We specifically have DCI-HDR defined. We have DVIs defined. We now have Barco Light Steering content is that very close to the DCI-HDR definition.

We do have a "Standard-single deliverable" content by using a *constrained* DCI-HDR specification that meets the requirements of Barco Light Steering. It's up to studios to decide what they want to master and deliver. One or two versions is up to the studio.

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### **ICTA/InterSociety Conference at next CinemaCon.**

InterSociety has been discussing with ICTA for a one-day conference at CinemaCon. ICTA was successful in getting a time/location for Monday of CinemaCon. They have conference space up until 3pm on Monday.

ICTA has their own committee and seems to be open to having input and suggestions for this conference. We are offering to provide programming and assistance in programming the day.

We also considered a “rant session” from anyone in the audience. Maybe a filmmaker that has purchased a theater and ask for their overview of what’s needed. Other topics could include cyber security, seat design, POS (point of sale), exit signs, encourage younger folks to join our industry, exposure to full screen experiences, what is HDR / options, (some) DCP delivery. The target audience are those that come to CinemaCon - mainly middle managers from theaters.

We asked for folks that would like to help organize the day: Sean Romano, Loren Neilson, Jerry Pierce, Steve LLamb, Dean Bullock, Kirk Griffins, Reiner Doetzkie, Frank Tees, Mark Mayfield, Mark Collins, and others from the InterSociety Board. (If you are interested, let Jerry know.)

ICTA is looking for topics for presentation at the LA Seminar Series in January.

“I’ve been asked by ICTA to solicit the ISDCF group for possible presentations at the LA Seminar Series in January. See this link for the submission form [Submission Guidelines](#)”

(Break for 15 minutes)

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### **Website and IT updates Naming Convention: General Status**

All good. Still getting new facilities/studios at the rate of about 2 per week.

There was some concern about abuse of download, so we will implement a monitoring system.

We discussed putting some “friction” of participation in the GitHub repository. After discussion, we decided that we will leave things as they are. Submission requires real-name, but open discussion can be anyone.

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### **BIG PICTURE issue for Naming Convention**

Is the naming convention getting in the way of innovation? Is this a problem that requires new technology get “approval” from ISDCF to be part of the digital cinema ecosystem? Should we encourage the CPL metadata and discount CTT?

There was a good discussion on use of CTT for file names, but the push back from many in the room. There does not seem to be an alternative approach to CTT that can handle the “routing” through all the workflow elements. It might be something for the future, but proposals needs to come forward. The main issue is the installation of legacy equipment that is 20 years old. There needs to be tools to open CPL at every level of the workflow.

Dean suggested holding a subgroup to discuss how to find a solution to CTT.

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### **DCI Update**

Thanks for hardware manufactures feedback on registry on the new website.  
New chairs.

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### **SMPTE update**

pDCDM Underway (Packed DCDM - 2x smaller size) Standard supports JPEG2000 Part 1, and Part 15. (More discussion next time.)

27C-10 Study Group on Origins of Digital Cinema - Contact Howard or Kevin.

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### **EDCF Update**

New board members.

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### **The Cinema Foundation / CIT**

No update. Cinema Day no longer.



## Action Items from August 6, 2024

1. Get audio test content to Trevor so we could do a demonstration at VanNuys prior to next ISDCF meeting.

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Attendance on last page.