Tom Kite
With profound sorrow we learn that, after a six-year battle with cancer, Tom Kite passed away in September. During his 16-year career at Audio Precision (AP), he applied his engineering expertise to a broad range of audio challenges and was an essential contributor to the development and evolution of the APx500 Series of audio analyzers.

Kite joined Audio Precision in February of 1999 as a DSP engineer and, by 2007, had been elevated to director of engineering. Subsequently promoted to vice president of engineering in 2008, he oversaw all aspects of AP’s engineering efforts, maintaining his responsibilities as system architect, product planner, and DSP coder even while waging his courageous fight with cancer.

He was reviewer for the IEEE Transactions on Image Processing and was an established member of the Audio Engineering Society, where he was a major contributor in standards committees for audio test and measurement. He was similarly a noted contributor to the 10th edition of the National Association of Broadcasters Engineering Handbook.

Kite holds two patents for audio measurement technology and has published numerous papers in peer-reviewed journals devoted to audio, acoustics, and image processing.

Prior to joining AP, Kite’s engineering experience included work at HP Laboratories and Xerox Laboratories. Not satisfied with a B.A. degree in Physics from Oxford University, he earned an M.S.E.E. (specializing in acoustics) and Ph.D. (specializing in image processing) from The University of Texas at Austin.

Tom Kite participated for many years in the AES standards working group on Digital Audio Measurement Techniques. He was a substantial contributor to the revision of AES-6id, “Personal computer audio quality measurements,” published in 2006. He had a fine grasp of detail without ever becoming pedantic, and he genuinely cared about getting it right. In late 2012, despite his illness, he accepted the chair of SC-02-01 in order to drive to conclusion a major revision of AES17, “Measurement of digital audio equipment.” It is a measure of the man that he did complete this important project, and it is sad indeed to know that he did not live to see its publication later in September 2015. He will be missed by all who knew and worked with him.