Report of Technical committee TC-EMC on Electromagnetic Compatibility

Monday 28 April 2014 Berlin, Germany

Background

TC-EMC was set up about five years ago but has not been very active and the officers had retired in 2013. At the 2013 New York Technical Council meeting it was proposed to appoint Bill Whitlock and John Woodgate as joint chairs, with a view to revitalizing the Committee.

Report

For the 136th Convention in Berlin, some 120 A4 flyers were distributed in session and committee rooms, and in the registration area, notifying a presentation by John Woodgate on a new European EMC Directive and new EMC standards applicable to professional audio. In spite of this publicity, only five people attended.

In the subsequent discussion, it was agreed that AES members and, perhaps more significant, their managers, do not understand the importance of EMC, and of designing-in EMC (and safety, but AES does not address that) instead of imposing it after the design is 'finished'.

With the support of the chair of Technical Council, the following actions have been taken or are planned:

- place the presentation on the TC-EMC web page as a public document, and try to give it wider publicity through AES social media links etc.;
- place a fictitious EMC ‘war story’, ‘How to lose a million dollars’ (by not designing EMC in) also on the web site as a public document;
- write a Journal item on the importance of EMC and ‘design-in’;
- distribute a flyer at the 137th Convention on an event (to be determined) at the TC-EMC meeting
- other activity that may be devised or respond to EMC events from outside AES.

EMC standards are continuously updated and all major countries now have them so exporters are forced to take them into account.

John Woodgate, co-chair 140502