

EBU Technical Statement D87-1999 Requirements for standardisation of Fibre Channel for use in television production

<i>EBU Committee</i>	<i>First Issued</i>	<i>Revised</i>	<i>Re-issued</i>
PMC	1999		

Keywords: **Video compression, file transfer**

The European Broadcasting Union (EBU) recognises that Fibre Channel A/V is an attractive candidate for certain crucial applications within the television production centre. These include the interconnection of Server/NLE based systems, where Fibre Channel can meet the demand for both fast file transfers and streaming of Content (Essence and Metadata) in a wrapper (the FC A/V Container). This latter requirement was identified and requested by the joint EBU/SMPTE Task Force [1].

The EBU wishes to express its concerns about recent implementations of ANSI Fibre Channel in professional television broadcast equipment. In particular, because the lack of a final standard has led manufacturers to develop several proprietary implementations of Fibre Channel protocol which in turn has resulted in the introduction of incompatible products into the marketplace.

The EBU strongly supports international standards, and cannot recommend the adoption of equipment incorporating proprietary (or ad-hoc interpretations of) interfaces to its Members.

The EBU encourages the Fibre Channel Association to finalise the FC A/V standard as soon as possible and, in particular, to concentrate on defining the following:

- A single Fast File Transfer Protocol
- A single transparent Streaming Protocol which would allow real-time and faster-than-real-time transfers.
- A Container or Wrapper allowing the mapping of Audio and Video Data and Metadata, which would facilitate the definition of gateways to ATM and SDTI.
- Support for FTP+ and XTP (based on IP).
- Support for the mapping of at least ITU-R Rec. BT.601 signals [2], DV-based signals and MPEG-2 422P@ML signals, together with their associated Data Essence and Metadata.

For more information, please contact the EBU Technical Department: miles@ebu.ch

Bibliography

- [1] Special supplement to EBU Technical Review 1998: **Final Report of EBU/SMPTE Task force: Harmonised Standards for the Exchange of Television Programme Material as Bit Streams**
- [2] ITU-R Recommendation BT.601-5: **Studio encoding parameters of digital television for standard 4:3 and widescreen 16:9 aspect ratios**