



In This Issue

NABA *caster*

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AGM / FRAS 2017— DC Here We Come!

Michael McEwen, NABA

We are only a little over one month into the New Year, but it has already been an extraordinarily busy time for our committees, projects and the Secretariat as we approach our upcoming Committee Meetings, Annual General Meeting (AGM), and the *Future of Radio & Audio Symposium* (FRAS) next week (February 14th-16th) in Washington, DC.

Tuesday, February 14th will focus on our standing Technical and Legal committees, and the Board of Directors. These face-to-face meetings are used to reflect upon the accomplishments of the previous year and to set the agenda for the year ahead. Thank you to our members NBC Universal, Disney | ABC and 21st Century Fox for hosting the TC, LC and Board of Directors meetings, respectively, in their Washington offices.

On February 15th, PBS will host the AGM, where we will have discussions and presentations on the core issues affecting the broadcasting industry, specifically Cyber Security, which continues to be a hot topic that concerns all broadcasters. The AGM will begin with a short formal period where the business of the association is dealt with, followed by a keynote by **Paula Kerger, President, PBS** and will then continue with panels featuring members of NABA's Board of Directors, committee leaders and industry experts.

That same evening, the FRAS cocktail reception will be held at NPR. It will be a great opportunity to have stimulating conversations, and to take part in a tour of NPR facilities and see their MetaPub system (providing metadata) working behind the scenes.

The NAB will host the FRAS on Thursday, February 16th, featuring panels, presentations and keynotes on the future of radio and audio with an exclusive keynote address from **Ajit Pai, Chairman, FCC** who opened our first FRAS held in Toronto two years ago. There will be panels focusing on FM Chip Activation in Smartphones, Future Car Dashboards, Building Audiences for Over-The-Air Radio Broadcasting, Podcasting, Data/Analysis, and Future Key Trends. We have an amazing group of panelists, and are looking forward to an engaging day.

Please read through the agendas presented in this *NABAcaster* and even though we are only a few days away, if you have an interest and would like to come then please get in touch with us promptly at contact@nabanet.com to register.

Looking ahead through March and April, the NABA agenda continues with preparations for important meetings at the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) in early May. At that meeting WIPO members will determine whether they are prepared to recommend a Diplomatic Conference on a new Broadcaster Treaty to protect our signals in the digital era. We have worked many years to get to this point and our attention is focused on making this conference a reality.

We'll also begin our "educational" efforts on common metadata and file formats, specifications and standards, and why industry adoption is important to improving workflow and managing our costs.

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NABAcaster

is published by and for members and friends of the North American Broadcasters Association (NABA)

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WBU-IMCG FORUM

May 31 & June 1
Washington, DC



WORLD BROADCASTING UNIONS
International Media Connectivity Group

This work began a couple of years ago in partnership with the UK's Digital Production Partnership (DPP) under the leadership of Clyde Smith (Fox) with a working group of NABA members. We believe the results of this work will make a major contribution to industry efficiency and improved quality.

Work in other areas, including Media over IP, cyber security, FM Chips in Smartphones, ATSC 3.0, the post spectrum auction repack and other issues associated with the Next Generation of Television, will certainly inform and drive our agenda. I am constantly reminded that the pace of change in our industry is accelerating,

perhaps we're not at "Moore's Law" speed yet but we're certainly getting there.

I hope to see many of you next week in Washington. ■

Simon Fell to Lead the WBU's Technical Committee

David Wood, EBU

The Director of the EBU Technology and Innovation Department — Simon Fell — has been elected to chair the World Broadcasting Unions' (WBU) Technical Committee (WBU-TC) for a two-year term (2017-2018). The WBU brings together the eight broadcasting unions in matters of common interest.

The elected management team for the WBU-TC is Simon Fell (Chair), Amal Punchihewa, ABU Technical Director (Vice-Chair), and John Lee, Chairman of the NABA Technical Committee (also Vice-Chair).

The WBU-TC has worked together and shared knowledge of broadcast technology and prepared common recommendations on such matters as broadcast spectrum and program production for many decades.

As Simon explained: "The world's broadcasters face many common challenges, which include protecting broadcasters and their customers from IT security threats, understanding the impact of 5G on broadcasting, investigating whether there can be common file formats for programmes, and much more. I am looking forward to working with my colleagues across the world to the benefit of us all."

Simon Fell, Director of Technology & Innovation, EBU (Chair)

Simon Fell leads the team spearheading developments in media technologies at the EBU. He has four decades of experience, formerly with ITV as Director of Future Technologies; previously he helped establish Carlton Television

where he held several executive positions and helped launch digital broadcasting.



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He is currently Chairman of the ETSI Mobile Broadcast Convergence Group

and previously has been President of DigiTAG and chaired the Technical Council at the UK's Digital Television Group, and was Chairman of the HD Forum.

Additional roles include Director of Engineering for Rushes, Chief Engineer of 625 and establishing the UK's Channel Four. His early career included periods in the USA with Rank Cintel and at YTV in Leeds, England. He is a fellow of both SMPTE and RTS.

Amal Punchihewa, Director of Technology & Innovation, ABU (Vice-Chair)

Amal Punchihewa is currently the Director of Technology & Innovation at ABU. In that position, he leads a team of specialists, driving innovation of media technology in the best interest of ABU members. He facilitates technical guidelines and standards, providing expertise related to the convergence of media, and involving technical needs. He is an advisor to IET Vision and Imaging Technical and Professional Network, having previously served as an Executive committee member.

John Lee, Chair, NABA-TC (Vice-Chair)

John Lee retired in December 2016 as Executive Director, Technology Solutions, for CBC/Radio-Canada. In this role, he was responsible for all DTV and Radio transmission facilities, all satellite stations and facilities, telecommunications, mobility, telephony, unified communications; and for IT, including data centres, end-user computers, applications, Information Security and governance. John Lee continues his work in NABA as a Consultant to Fox. ■