By Les Simmonds

Web Site For The Development of Australian CCTV Standards

Recently Vlado Damjanovski and I toured Australia together conducting CCTV Awareness Seminars for SAI Global, the Australian Standards sales and marketing organisation. The main aim of these seminars was to help make the attendees aware of the current CCTV standards in reasonable detail. Hopefully, we achieved this but the feedback we obtained from the attendees was very important to us.

The CCTV seminar attendee's feedback has caused us to create a CCTV standards comment web site at our cost so you can participate in the creation of new CCTV standards and the modification of existing CCTV standards. More on the CCTV standards web site later in this article.

TVL X 100

IEEE APPROVED   RESOLUTION CHART

The Tour

The CCTV standards seminars were conducted over a week with a full day seminar in all states except South Australia and Tasmania. The tour was hectic and felt more like a Rock 'n' Roll tour without music and roadies than a CCTV awareness seminar tour. Both of us enjoyed the pressure and found that besides being passionate about CCTV, we have common interests in Pink Floyd and good Australian red wine. On the plane to Perth I watched Dark Side of the Moon and on the trip back to Sydney Roger Water's The Wall Concert in Berlin on my Vaio Notebook and Vlado watched the same DVDs but vice versa on his MacBook Pro.
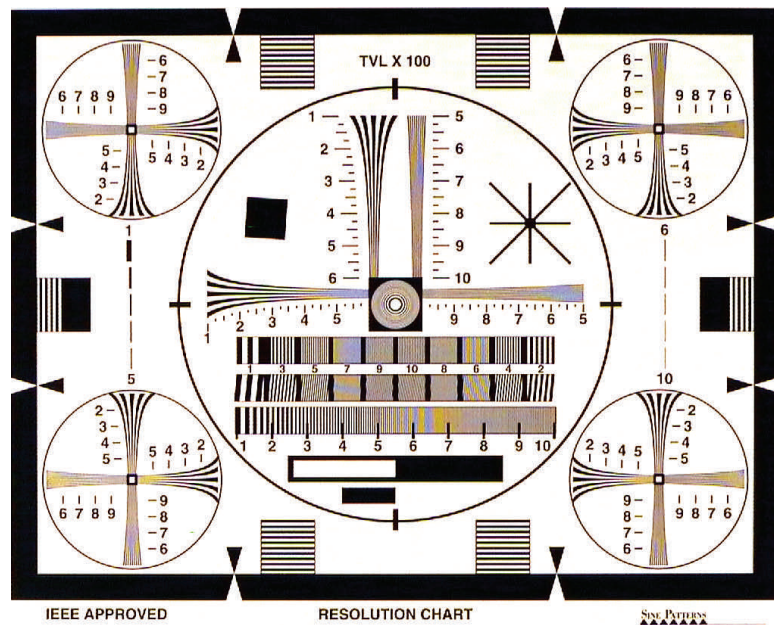
The CCTV standards seminars were originally based on:

* AS 4806.1 - Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) – Management and operation

* AS 4806.2 - Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) – Application guidelines

* AS 4806.3 - Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) – CCTV PAL signal timings and levels.

We also added the soon to be released AS 4806.4 - Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) – Remote video and introduced the attendees to the concept of the proposed new and embryonic AS 4806.5 which will cover the integration of CCTV and IT technologies and will be of value and interest to both the CCTV and IT industries.
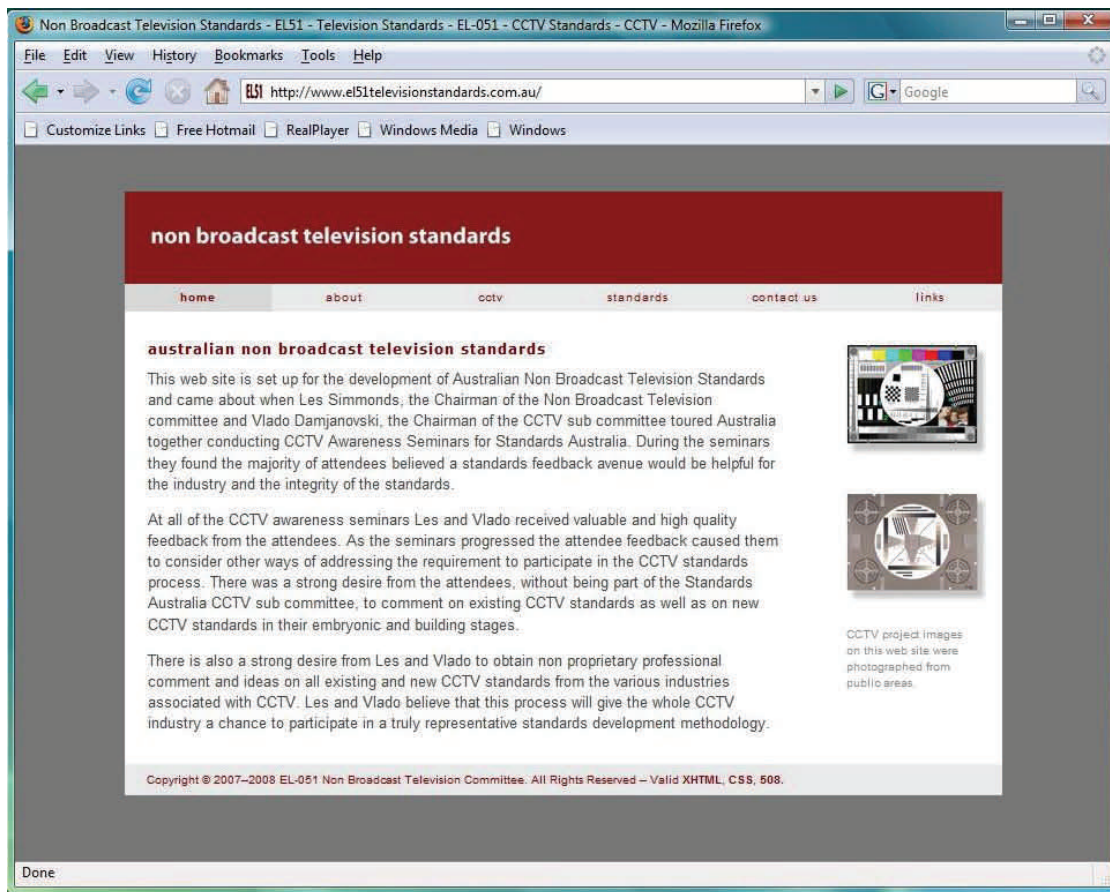
At all of the CCTV awareness seminars we received valuable feedback from the attendees. As the seminars progressed the attendee feedback caused us to consider other ways of addressing their requirement to participate in the CCTV standards process. Most of the feedback was positive and there was a strong desire to comment on existing CCTV standards as well as new CCTV standards in their embryonic and building stages without being part of the Standards Australia CCTV sub committee. There is also a strong desire from Vlado and me to obtain non proprietary professional comment and ideas on all existing and new CCTV standards from the CCTV and IT industries.

Our previous battles with various so called expert committees and organisations about identification and recognition are fairly well known within the CCTV industry and these issues were also mentioned. It is also well known within the CCTV industry that we tested CCTV identification and recognition categories thoroughly, allowing for 20% less image height. Those CCTV committees with truncheon wielding CCTV experts didn't appear to test relevant requirements, they just relied on CCTV standards originally written in 1993 for low quality VHS recorded CCTV images.

The Australian CCTV standards identification and recognition image sizes were tested independently by expert panels consisting of Broadcast Television experts, Industrial Television experts, CCTV Operational experts from large CCTV end users, CCTV Policy/Management experts from large CCTV end users and one Policeman who has Broadcast Television qualifications and extensive video surveillance experience.

If I get stirred up enough about this, I might write an article for SE&N on the details of these lively battles for commonsense and practical initiatives to prevail in these quasi Australian CCTV standards.

The Web Site

During the CCTV Awareness Seminars it became obvious that there are many in the CCTV industry and CCTV end users who would appreciate an opportunity to comment on existing and new CCTV standards without being a member of the CCTV sub committee. Therefore, we are setting up a private web site for all EL051 Non Broadcast Television standards of which CCTV is one of those standards. The full list of EL051 Non Broadcast Television sub committees is:

* CCTV sub committee.

* Medical video sub committee.

* Industrial video sub committee.

* Professional camcorders sub committee.

* Domestic camcorders sub committee.

* Non Broadcast Television testing standards sub committee.

The EL051 web site will eventually include sections for all of the above sub committee work but the first section to be available will be CCTV. The home page is at **www.el51televisionstandards.com.au**

In the CCTV section you will have the opportunity to register and make comment on the existing CCTV standards and make suggestions on any new CCTV standards which are in progress, or even suggest an entirely new standard which you believe is relevant.

We expect that the process will be where appropriate comments on the existing CCTV standards will be put to the CCTV sub committee and then may be incorporated in amendments and/or new editions of the CCTV standards. New CCTV standards will be continually updated on the web site and taken to about 80% complete on the EL051 web site and then handed to the CCTV sub committee. The new standards will then go through the normal Standards Australia process and be available for your comment again when released by Standards Australia and the CCTV sub committee for "public comment".

You will need to register with your name and email address, but you can use a suitable alias if you wish, the alias will be the only name seen by those who visit the web site. You name and email address will only be known to the Moderators/Webmasters which is Vlado and me.

This standards process is very new, fairly revolutionary and we understand a world first. The success, or otherwise will be up to you. So please start participating at **www.el51televisionstandards.com.au** when you have any CCTV standards ideas which you think are appropriate.

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