

T1A1.5 | 95-117



NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM

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IN REPLY REFER TO: Technology and Standards (NT)

23 DEC 1994

Dr. Charles A. Dvorak
Chair, T1A1 Technical Subcommittee
AT&T Communications
900 Route 202/206, Room 5A217
Bedminister, 07921-0752

Dear Dr. Dvorak:

As I am sure you are aware, the Office of the Manager of the National Communications System (OMNCS) has made a strong commitment to the Video Teleconferencing (VTC) Performance Standards project being conducted in T1A1.5. We made that commitment in recognition of the urgent need for standard video quality measures and in the belief that T1A1 was the proper forum in which to develop such measures. The OMNCS jointly sponsored the original VTC Performance Standards project proposal, which was approved in 1987. In the ensuing years, we have actively participated in T1A1.5 discussions on the development of objective video quality measures and have supported both NTIA/ITS and Delta Information Systems, Inc., in their technical contributions to that goal. The T1A1.5 studies have progressed to a point where highly effective measures have been developed and demonstrated, and we believe it is extremely important that these measures be standardized promptly.

Timely T1A1 action in this area is important in supporting several emerging applications. Video teleconferencing services are taking an increasingly important role in business and Government, and offer substantial opportunities for productivity and efficiency enhancement. To fully realize these opportunities, end users will require objective means of matching their needs with appropriate services and systems. Video communication will also be a key, widely used medium on the NII. Video NII applications such as education, health care, and entertainment will engender substantial demand and will be a potentially huge revenue source for industry. Users will be faced with a bewildering array of products and services on the NII, and again, will require objective means of relating offerings with their needs. As you know, conventional measures are inadequate for quantifying the performance of advanced digital video systems; these systems have many fundamentally different impairments that can only be accurately quantified using advanced, perception-based techniques.

Obviously, T1A1 must respond promptly and effectively to compelling standards needs in order to maintain its pre-eminent

position and reputation as the principal source of performance

position and reputation as the principal source of performance and coding standards for the U.S. telecommunications industry, and to attract the organizational and technical resources that responsibility requires. In communications, participants can have an incentive to "forum shop", particularly if they believe other participants in an established forum are unwilling to honor and adopt definitive work. It remains my personal belief that T1A1.5 is the proper forum in which to complete this important standards project. To assist me in communicating the progress of Working Group T1A1.5 to the Federal Telecommunications Standards Committee (FTSC) and other NCS constituents in accordance with that belief, I request that you provide an up-to-date summary of the planned outputs and estimated completion dates for the VTC Performance Standards project from your perspective as T1A1 Chair. The status of this T1A1 work will be a topic of substantial interest at the February 9, 1995 meeting of the FTSC.

In closing, I would like to express my appreciation to you and to T1A1 for the high quality and productivity you have achieved in developing national standards and U.S. Contributions to ITU-T in the performance and signal processing areas. I look forward to future cooperation in these important efforts.

Sincerely,

Dennis Bodson
DENNIS BODSON
Assistant Manager