



Reporting from the RAC/SACCom Luncheon during the 2006 IEEE International Symposium on EMC in Portland, Oregon

By Elya Joffe, EMC Society Standards Advisory and Coordination Committee (SACCom) Chair

Following a tradition of many years, the RAC (Representative Advisory Committee) and SACCom (Standards Advisory and Coordination Committee) held their joint luncheon on Monday, August 14 following a busy morning of the Standards Committee meetings.

The luncheon meeting provided the EMC-S Board of Directors, as well as the members and representatives of each of the committees, an opportunity to hear what is happening in standards and other EMC related activities not only from the EMC-S but also in many other global organizations. These representatives exchange information about their respective activities to know what each other is doing and to answer questions by the Board.

SACCom and RAC are similar committees in the fact that they both consist of representatives of various entities, which are of interest to the EMC-S, all serving as liaisons, and providing mutual fertilization between the EMC-S and the organization they represent. However, they differ in scope.

SACCom, currently chaired by Elya Joffe, operates under the VP for Standards and consists of representatives of standards development organizations, such as (just to name a few):

- American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Accredited Standards Committee (ASC) C63 (EMC)
- Multiple International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC)/Special International Committee on Radio Interference (CISPR) Subcommittees
- European Electrotechnical Standards Committee (CENELEC)
- Information Technology Industry Council (ITIC)
- Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE)
- Several IEEE Standards Association Coordinating Committees (SCCs)

SACCom covers EMC standardization activities literally on the ground, on the sea, in the air, and even in space! Again, above is just a sampling of the organizations on the SACCom. There are many more.

RAC, chaired by Fred Heather, operating under the VP for Technical Services, consists of representatives of other organizations not associated with standards. Here is a sampling of the list of organizations in the RAC:

- American Council of Independent Laboratories (ACIL) and the US Council of EMC Laboratories (USCEL)
- IEEE Committee on Man and Radiation (COMAR)
- IEEE Nanotechnology Council
- National Association of Radio and Telecommunications Engineers (NARTE)
- IEEE Society of the Social Implications of Technology (SSIT)

Again, this is just a sampling of the organizations of the RAC. There are many more.



PHOTO BY KEN WYATT

Don Heirman, Vice-President for Standards (center seated) chaired one of the many meetings held in Portland under the umbrella of the Standards Committee, including the annual RAC-SACCom luncheon.

Hosting the luncheon alternates between the two committees (and VPs). This year, in 2006, the meeting was hosted by SACCom (and the VP for Standards).

Here are some interesting highlights from a few of the reports presented during the luncheon:

Don Heirman, SACCom representative to CISPR SC A and I, reported on activities taking place regarding measurements above 1 GHz. In particular, he reported that the draft publication CISPR 32, scheduled to replace CISPR 22, is in preparation, and will include limits for frequencies higher than 1 GHz (currently up to 6 GHz, but when completed – the limits are expected to be extended higher). Don also reported on the work of a joint task force (JTF) of CISPR and IEC/TC 77, regarding the use of reverberating chambers (currently published as 61000-4-21), including emission and immunity tests in the frequency band 200 MHz- 18 GHz. It seems like much activity is planned for CISPR SC A and I!

Gary Fenical, SACCom representative to SAE, AE-4 Electromagnetic Environmental Effects (E3) Committee, reported on several projects of reviewing and revision of documents. Those include, for instance:

- ARP1173A Test Procedure to Measure the RF Shielding Characteristics of EMI Gaskets
- ARP1972A Recommended Measurement Practices and Procedures for EMC Testing
- ARP4043B Flight Line Grounding and Bonding of Aircraft
- ARP958E Electromagnetic Interference Measurement Antennas, Standard Calibration Method

This presentation led to an interesting discussion, as it

appears the work of the SAE can benefit from work being done in the EMC-S with regard to calibration of antennas and probes (IEEE Standard 1309 on probe calibration, compare to ARP958E) and measurement of gaskets shielding (IEEE Standard 1302 on RF gasket characterization, compare to ARP1173A).

These two examples demonstrate the importance of potential coordination and justify the role of SACCom; although these standards do not overlap, they do complement each other in many ways and some room for coordination between the groups would benefit both.

Another exciting thing happened in the luncheon when a new representative, Jim Lukash, identified a new organization, not currently represented in SACCom, AIAA, the *American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics*, and has volunteered to

act as its liaison to SACCom. The AIAA contributes to ISO TC 20, SC 14, WG1, which deals with EMC in space systems. Welcome, Jim, to SACCom.

We are seeking proposals for representation of standards-related organizations not currently represented in SACCom. Representatives from standardization entities of other IEEE societies' and organizational units with some relevance to EMC are also more than welcome to join. Please contact *David Guzman*, e-mail: *dguzman@rftek.net*, if you are a member of such an organization and are interested in serving as liaison to it. If you do not know if your organization is represented, please check with David.

We look forward to the next joint meeting of RAC and SACCom, to take place in Honolulu, Hawaii, in conjunction with the 2007 IEEE International Symposium on EMC. **EMC**
