

SES ULTRA HD CONFERENCE, 12 FEBRUARY 2015

Speakers biographies

Chris Forrester, chairman

Chris Forrester is a well-known journalist and industry analyst. He edits *Inside Satellite TV* and is a contributing editor for *Advanced-Television.com*, and a regular feature writer at *TVB Europe*. He additionally files for Dow-Jones' Factiva on-line service, as well as *Satmagazine.com*. Forrester has been covering Ultra-HD in its 4K and 8K versions since 2006.

Andrew Neil, Journalist and broadcaster

The Former UK Editor of the Economist, Editor of the Sunday Times, Executive Chairman of Sky Television and Executive Editor of Fox Television News, he is currently a freelance writer and broadcaster. Andrew is a key figure in the BBC's politics revamp intended to increase the number of people watching and actively engaging with the democratic process. "This Week" is a fresh approach to politics where Andrew, joined by Michael Portillo and, formerly, Diane Abbott, discusses the week's top political stories. Andrew also presents "The Daily Politics" shown every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Each day Andrew chairs set piece debates with key politicians and commentators.

Nigel Catlow, Business Group Director for Consumer Electronics, UK and Ireland, **GfK**.

He has over 30 years of experience in the fields of Market Research, Marketing Management, and Marketing Communications. This experience was gained at Philips in Consumer Electronics and at Taylor Nelson across diverse markets. Nigel's time at Philips included both UK and European roles as well as involvement in TV product development dealing with development centres in Bruges and Singapore. After 8 years working out of Amsterdam, Nigel returned to the U.K. in 2008 to take up his current post with GfK.

Yvonne Thomas, Project Manager-Future Television/UHD, **EBU**

Yvonne Thomas graduated in Television Technologies and Electronic Media Engineering from University of applied Science Wiesbaden (HSRM), Germany, in Oct. 2010. She received a prominent award of the ARD/ZDF Academy for her thesis in September 2011 at the IFA in Berlin.

Following these studies she started beginning of 2011 to work at the EBU in the Technology & Innovation Department. Since then she is responsible for internal and external projects on 3D and Future Television technologies, such as UHD TV or LED studio lighting. Yvonne coordinates the EBU's Strategic Program BeyondHD in which she led the creation of UHD TV and 3D test content. These were unique experience and early bird projects that helps EBU members and research institutes to conduct further tests on formats beyond HD (Codecs, displays, compression etc.). Further to this the involvement in several standardization bodies, such as DVB or SMPTE, build the basis for more technical and strategic discussions and decision making for UHD technologies, which took place for example at the DVB-EBU meeting or the High Dynamic Range workshop in 2014, which Yvonne was responsible for.

Richard Salmon, Lead Research Engineer, **BBC R&D**

Richard Salmon is a Lead Research Engineer at BBC R&D, with particular expertise in TV colourimetry and display technology. Having been involved with HDTV research since 1992, he has a deep technical understanding of the entire image chain from the camera, through compression systems, to the viewer's impression of the displayed image. He inspired and led work within the BBC on higher frame rates, culminating in very successful demonstrations at IBC in 2008 and 2013. He is chairman of the EBU Displays group, and is also active on "Beyond HD" and LED lighting topics in the EBU, the UK Digital TV Group (DTG), DVB and SMPTE. He is an Honorary Fellow of the BKSTS, and a member of SMPTE, the Society for Information Display (SID) and the IET.

Stephen Heimbecher, Head of Innovations & Standards, **Sky Deutschland**

Stephan Heimbecher has been working at Sky Deutschland since July 2002. As Head of Innovations & Standards in Technology, his post involves representing Sky on national and international committees, technical work with major Hollywood studios plus technical innovation management tasks within Sky Deutschland.

He began his career as research associate at the Institut für Rundfunktechnik (IRT), the research and development institute for the public broadcasters in Germany, Austria and Switzerland. After extensive work experience with DAB technology and audio coding, he dedicated his work to the standardisation of Digital TV for several years. Stephan then joined Top5 MediaConnection in 2001 (a company of the earlier KirchGruppe) as manager within the consulting department. At Premiere/Sky Mr. Heimbecher has significantly been involved in the launch of PVR, HD and Sky 3D. His current major focus is Ultra HD and Stephan Heimbecher serves as chairman of a respective working group and member of the board of the German TV Platform in that regard. Since 2003 Mr. Heimbecher is also member of the DVB Steering Board.

Ruth Sessions, Director of Operations, Atlantic Productions

Ruth has been Director of Operations since August 2005, and has extensive previous experience in both production management and producer roles on a range of landmark series, formats and specials. Ruth first joined Atlantic in 2002, and was joint series producer on *Mummy Autopsy* and producer of the acclaimed *Who Killed Julius Caesar?* before taking on her current role. Ruth was previously Head of Production at Transatlantic Films and also worked as a management consultant after studying classics at Oxford University.

Haydn Parnell, Manager & Chief Engineer, Fletcher London

Broadcasting history was made at the 2014 Ryder Cup at Gleneagles when Sky Sports pioneered the first full end-to-end production in 4K. In addition, 4K ultra-motion replays were provided by the I-MOVIX X10 UHD, supplied by Fletcher London. Sky Sports covered the entire week's action at The Ryder Cup as a full production trial for 4K broadcasting. The test contributed to the broadcaster's understanding of the technology and the changes that are happening in this field. It follows their first 4K test broadcast, showing West Ham vs. Stoke City on August 31st 2013. Chicago-based Fletcher Sports and its UK branch, Fletcher London, are renowned for providing the most advanced production tools to a range of sports customers, including a fleet of I-MOVIX systems used to enhance coverage of major sporting events in the USA and Europe.

Peter Sykes, Strategic Technology Development Manager, Sony Professional Solutions, Europe

Mr Sykes has worked in the content and media technology industry for 30 years and has been involved in the introduction of some of Sony's most exciting professional developments including the Digital Betacam, XDCAM and HDCAM production formats. He first became involved in the product management and marketing of Sony's High Definition cameras and systems over ten years ago, when he was tasked with widening the discussion beyond the traditional cinematography audience in readiness for widespread broadcast roll out starting in the mid-2000s.

He then worked on the introduction of file-based HD technologies such as XDCAM HD, before taking up the role of Strategic Marketing Manager for Digital Cinematography in 2010, leading the introduction of the CineAlta F65, F55 and F5 cameras and workflows. As Strategic Technology Development Manager, Peter is currently involved in the introduction of key technologies such as Ultra High Definition for the European professional market. Based in the UK, he recently lead the project to create Sony's new Digital Motion Picture Centre for Europe located at Pinewood Studios

Sam Orton-Jay, Director of Business Development and Strategy, DivX

Based in London, Sam Orton-Jay is Director of Business Development and Strategy for DivX. In this role, he works primarily with industry ecosystem partners for DivX's 4K-ready video platform for content creation, secure delivery and multi screen streaming solutions. Sam also helps to guide the company's product strategy for OTT service operators, building on more than 12 years of experience in video technology product management. Prior to DivX, Sam led the design and development of the industry's best selling Blu-ray Disc encoding solution – CineVision by Sonic Solutions – through which he became widely regarded as one of the industry's leading authorities on premium content video encoding. Sam graduated from the renowned "Tonmeister" Music and Sound Recording course at the University of Surrey and is currently enrolled in the Executive MBA program at Imperial College London.

Chris Johns, Chief Engineer, Broadcast Strategy, Sky UK

Chris Johns has been with BSkyB since its inception in 1989 having started his career in broadcast with the BBC. Chris formed part of the initial technical team tasked with launching Sky's multi-channel analogue satellite offering.

As Chief Engineer, Chris has been at the forefront of delivering broadcast functionality to the platform such as the Multi channel Digital Playout facilities, Dolby Digital audio, Server based solutions and Compression Systems. Having played a key role in Sky's HD launch and design of its High Definition infrastructure, he continues to oversee the product quality and took a lead in the capabilities of delivering 3D broadcasts to the home user over existing infrastructures and through Sky's HD PVR products.

Sitting on many Broadcast groups and societies, Chris is the current Chair of the UK section of the Society of Motion Pictures and Television Engineers (SMPTE), SMPTE Fellow and Honorary Fellow of the BKSTS. He has chaired and presented papers and works together with standards and recommendations bodies both in the UK and Europe.

As part of Sky's Technology department, Chris is now helping Sky enhance the entertainment delivered across a multitude of different platforms from a common core whilst maintaining the audio and visual quality the customer has come to expect from today's technologies. As part of this remit he continues to evolve many new experiences and the associated technologies to deliver better image and audio across the consumer's many devices.

Dr. Giles Wilson, Head of TV Compression, Ericsson

Dr. Giles Wilson oversees the strategy, vision and development of the company's industry-leading compression technology portfolio to ensure that it is able to meet the content acquisition, exchange and delivery requirements of broadcasters and operators around the world. Dr. Wilson has played a pioneering role in the company's 20 year heritage of creating next-generation compression solutions. He has been instrumental in developing the technology architectures and solutions for many of today's leading TV experiences, including the world's first MPEG-4 AVC HD encoder, which was recognised with an Emmy award for its technical innovation.

Dr. Wilson previously held the position of Head of TV Technology at Ericsson, prior to which he was Senior Vice President of Technology at TANDBERG Television. Before that role, Dr Wilson was Chief Architect with the company, leading the development of solutions based on advanced video compression technologies. He joined TANDBERG Television in 1995 when it was the Advanced Products Division of NTL. Dr. Wilson graduated from the Queen's University of Belfast in 1994 with a PhD in robotics.

John Adam, Head of Business Development & Industrial Affairs, Samsung Electronics Research, UK.

John Adam is a graduate in Physics from the University of Glasgow who has been involved in Digital TV since the first European launches in the late 90's. Prior to his current role, John has held a variety of European roles with responsibilities ranging from the first Consumer Set Top Boxes through to Data Broadcast and Internet Streaming and Content Distribution Systems.

John has been employed by Samsung since 2002. In his current capacity, John leads a team who engage with Broadcasters on their future service and business plans and work with local Government Regulators and Standards Bodies on digital media regulation and standardisation across Europe and the wider DVB footprint.

Richard Lindsay-Davies, CEO, DTG

Richard is responsible for the organisation's overall growth and development. With over 20 years of television industry experience, Richard drives the DTG's unique collaborative culture bringing a spirit of insight, creativity and excellence to the Group's activities.

Richard joined the Group as Director of Public Affairs in 2004 working with government and stakeholders to establish the UK digital switchover body, Digital UK. He was appointed Director General in 2006, establishing a new vision and operation before transferring to Freesat as Commercial Development Director where he played an integral role in the successful launch of the platform. Following the launch of Freesat, Richard returned to his role as DTG Director General in October 2008.

Simon Parnall, Distinguished Engineer and Director, Chief Technology and Architecture Office, Cisco Systems

Simon is a Cisco Distinguished Engineer, leading research and collaborative activities and acting in a thought-leadership capacity both inside and outside the company. Simon's current activities include future television systems, novel approaches to integrated hybrid television and new thinking for the connected home. Simon joined NDS, now part of Cisco, after leaving BBC R&D in 1999. He was responsible for the BBC's system for the presentation of widescreen films and RDS, the Radio Data System, and he led research work on highly efficient traffic message delivery to mobile navigation systems using Digital Audio Broadcasting and RDS. Simon was the chairman of DAVIC's Applications Technical Committee and, in this role, pioneered the concept

of the PVR. In 1999 he founded the TV Anytime Forum – an organisation he chaired until 2005 when it completed its second phase of specifications, now available as an international standard through ETSI.

Thomas Wrede, VP/Reception Systems, **SES**

Thomas Wrede is responsible for developing and implementing satellite reception products and solutions.

Thomas joined SES in 1992 as a Senior Systems Engineer. He has been deeply involved in the development of digital satellite television, in-home signal distribution concepts, digital satellite radio, satellite return channel technology, Internet via satellite and High Definition Television.

Most recently Thomas is focusing on the technical and commercial aspects of satellite signal distribution and the introduction of Ultra HD television services via satellite. Thomas represents SES in the DVB Commercial Module (www.dvb.org) and also chairs a Technology and Innovation Forum at the German Association of Commercial Broadcasters and Audiovisual Services.