

Minutes of the NMRA Nuremberg Toy Fair Meeting February 4th

General:

At 9:35 Reinhard Müller opens the meeting and welcomes the participants. Then Rutger Frieberg introduces Didrik Voss as the new director of the Technical Department and the current Chair of the DCCMWG.

Report from the BOD meeting

Didrik Voss gave a Report on the BOD Meeting held at Austin, TX in January 2006.

- a) RP 9.2.1 and RP 9.2.3 have been approved.
This includes the DCCMWG topics 0307122 Service Mode Decoder Lock Proposal, 0504021 Function Expansion F13-F28 and 0504022 Binary State Control.
- b) Convert RPs to Standards has been tabled until the July 2006 meeting in Philadelphia. There has been quite some discussion about this move especially in the field of the DCC Standards and RPs, as this would make any progress much slower.
- c) Develop Standards/RPs without regard to current non-conforming products. Tabled for more information. To be discussed in July 2006.
This is a political question with direct influence on the Work of the DCCMWG. While compatibility to existing equipment is always desired, there are devices incompatible to standards at the time they have introduced into the market, which impose great problems in developing further Standards and RPs.
- d) Name Change: Technical Dept. to Standards & Conformance Dept.
[Note: To Didrik and me it will stay the Technical Department]
- e) Patents: The BOD decided to drop the requirement to have exclusive rights to issue a patent in the model railroad industry. The patent owners, e.g. Bernd Lenz and Stan Ames in the case of the RPs 9.3.1 and 9.3.2, have the right to issue their patent to others in the model railroad industry as they see fit. NMRA will only issue patent rights to Manufacturers that meet all requirements of the applicable Standard or RP.
- f) NMRA publication *Scale Rails* and, therefore, *Bulletin* is changing publishers and direction. More technical articles dealing with Standards and RPs. More product reviews and comparison studies. More exposure of non-conforming products to NMRA Standards/RPs.

C&I Testing

Didrik Voss pointed at current problems and possible solutions in this field.

- a) It is difficult to get information from current people.
[Note: In the case of Alfred Capek it was a health problem]
- b) Michael Greene is leaving by end of February – we are looking for new person
- c) Didrik is looking forward to getting an accounting of all product submissions for the C&I Warrant to include 1) Date of submission; 2) Applicable Standards and RPs; 3) Date of completion. As a result, he is entertaining the thought of Manufacturer Self-Certification.
 - i) Submit appropriate paperwork and the product to C&I with signatures of responsible person.

- ii) The C&I will immediately issue a Warrant to the Manufacturer based on their self-certification.
 - iii) C&I will double-check the product for conformance.
 - iv) If non-conformance is found a rejection letter will be issued withdrawing the Warrant. This will be also announced in *Scale Rails*. This should prevent manufacturers from requesting a Conformance Warrant too easy.
- d) Didrik is looking at the PRICOM DCC Pocket Tester. He will be purchasing 1-2 devices for evaluation. Hopefully we can use this device to automated conformance testing.

Bi-Directional Status

Peter Ziegler gave a short status report of Bi-Directional. As officially announced on the fair there are four manufacturers turning this proposal into products: Lenz, Kühn, Tams and Zimo. This is done under the Lenz trademark RailCom, as all liked this short but descriptive term. Therefore there will be no further technical changes and the next step is to see how this works in the field.

Based on this Didrik presented a time schedule working backwards from the next BOD meeting early July in Philadelphia. To meet a three month period for publication in *Scale Rails* and the Web asked for by the BOD the DCCMWG has to forward these RPs by end of March, i.e. immediately following the Spring Meeting in Göppingen. Therefore there should be a formal comment period on this topic ASAP. [Note: We are working on this to happen!]

Open topic list & Agenda for Göppingen

Reinhard Müller went through the Preliminary Agenda for Göppingen as distributed on January 22nd. There are several topics which are dealing with common goals which should be put together.

One of these is the work on the organization of CVs. Didrik suggested that Dick Bronson will coordinate the work. However there are two different approaches:

- a) Dick Bronson working on RP 9.2.2 to find CVs below 1024.
 - i) CV 129-256 converted from NMRA Only to Manufacturer Unique
 - ii) Accessory Decoders: Move from 513-1024 to 1- 512.
- b) Stan Ames working on CVs above 1024 and reserving all current CVs below 1024 for NMRA use only.

Regarding the topic 0409061 Asymmetric DCC Signal Peter Ziegler requested to extend this to "Location Dependent Control". As we should have a topic number for each possible approach Reinhard Müller will put Location Dependent Control as an Item on the agenda and each approach should get its topic number at the Spring Meeting.

AOB: Future Meetings of the DCCMWG

Didrik announced that there should be only one meeting per year in Europe as there is only one meeting in the US:

- One in United States during NMRA Convention – July
- One in Europe during or immediately after this Toy Fair

This topic should be decided on at the Spring meeting, as there are conflicting interests from those in central Europe exhibiting at the fair with limited time during and after the fair and those coming from further away, which deny to travel twice a long distance within two month. This conflict is not new and we should find a solution. Therefore any comments are appreciated.

The meeting was closed at 10:40.

While I would like to thank Märklin for providing a meeting place the place was noisier then expected when planing the meeting as the noise is reflected from the roof of the hall. I promise to find another place for any future meeting at the toy fair.

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