terim step on the road to true full bandwidth HD production, with one important exception. It looks towards true HD rather than looking to be backwardly compatible with NTSC or PAL systems. Graphs and illustrations prove that his supposition is technically possible.

But will it fly politically?

I think not.

Which leads us to the subject matter of the last article for review in this column. *Some European Perspectives on HDTV*, by G.J. Tonge and J.R. Forrest, appeared in the *Journal* of the SMPTE December 1989, pages 868-872.

As you may or may not be aware, Europe is developing its own HD system using the MAC transmission standard. Eureka 95 system development is well under way; satellite transmissions were conducted and home VCR's shown at the September 1988 IBC International Broadcasting Convention.

The pace has quickened on the HD front in Europe, particularly in the United Kingdom where DBS transmissions were scheduled to begin this Spring. The Europeans, as the authors point out, are strongly committed to Eureka 95 and the HD-MAC family of HD standards. There is a surprising degree of unanimity in this regard.

The Europeans feel that this standard will best serve their interests because of the possibilities of improved picture quality, additional data capacity, secure conditional access, dual aspect ratio specifications (4:3 or 16:9) and a better starting point for HDTV processing.(4) The HD-MAC system makes it easy for current users to receive the new enhanced signal with an inexpensive black box decoder.

This article also touches upon wide aspect ratio PAL and ETV systems.

So, despite the initial desires for a single worldwide standard, it is apparent that there will be at least two, perhaps more, competing HD imaging systems, necessitated partially by economics and partially by the politics of national self-interest. But we should not despair; all is not lost, all of the results aren't in yet.

In any case, as technology advances in the HD imaging domain someone will no doubt invent a means to nullify the negative consequences of multiple standards. Indeed someone may invent a "black box" or perhaps a "smart" receiver that can accept any input and display the appropriate information as it was meant to be seen.

In the next edition of this column we will take a look at Electron beam recording, digital audio for HD and the possibility of reviving a medium that began in the late 40s and early 50s — Theatre Television. We will explore the possibilities of that forgotten medium with respect to HD.

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