Glossary of Terms

Active X

A technique that allows an application or device to be controlled across a LAN from another (client) application.

ASI

Asynchronous Serial Interface - an interfacing signal type for MPEG coded signals and equipment. The data rate is fixed at 270 Mbits/s.

Burnt-in

Subtitles that have been keyed onto the video signal and cannot be turned on or off by the viewer in any way. The subtitles would have been keyed or inserted by a graphics generation device such as the G3000. This technique is also known as Open subtitling.

BITC

Burnt In Time Code, a timing reference signal that is visible on-screen all the time.

Boxed – Subtitle Style

A subtitle style where the subtitle text is surrounded by a solid Box to aid readability against different backgrounds.

Boxed Subtitle

The Box can be in colour and be opaque or semi transparent (ghost)

DVB

Digital Video Broadcast - a TV transmission method that employs MPEG encoding and decoding techniques.

DVITC

Vertical Interval Time Code - a timing signal with the format HH:MM:SS:FF. It is inserted as a video waveform into the VBI of a digital video signal, where it is not apparent on the screen.

HANC

Horizontal ANCillary data, the High Definition equivalent of the VBI. The HANC can be used to carry additional data such as subtitles and timecode.

Imitext

A bit-map subtitle transmission technique proprietary to Screen Subtitling Systems. However, the technology has been licensed to Scientific Atlanta for incorporation into their PowerVu encoders and decoders.

IP

Internet Protocol - the favoured protocol of most modern networks due to its inherent flexibility and simple point to point configuration requirements.

LAN

Local Area Network - the network infrastructure local to the system.

Lingua

A subtitle file format proprietary to Screen Subtitling Systems. The Lingua format can contain up to 64 different language files, each with their own timing information. When the file is played out under time code control, each language would be directed to a particular output device.

LTC

Longitudinal Time Code - a system of encrypting timing information in the format HH:MM:SS:FF onto audio tape.

MPEG

Motion Pictures Experts Group - a technique for the encoding and compressing of video and audio signals used in digital television. Standards include MPEG-1, MPEG-2 and MPEG-4

Open

Subtitles that have been keyed onto the video signal and cannot be turned on or off by the viewer in any way. The subtitles would have keyed or inserted by a graphics generation device such as the G3000. This technique is also known as Burnt-in subtitling.

Outline – Subtitle Style

A subtitle style where the each character of the subtitle text is surrounded by a thin outline of a different colour to aid readability against different backgrounds.

Packet 31 (PKT31)

A method of encoding raw serial data into the VBI of a video signal. The Packet 31 protocol is a sub-set of the World Standard Teletext protocol.

PCR

Program Clock Reference - a timing reference signal that all elements of a system would lock to in some fashion.

PES

Packetised Elementary Stream - the result of a conversion of an elementary stream, a PES consists entirely of PES-packets which contain a Header and a Payload.

PID

Packet IDentifier - a field used to distinguish between transport packets carrying data from one elementary stream from those of any other transport stream.

Polistream

A multi-channel, multi-language subtitling transmission system developed by Screen Subtitling Systems.

PSI

Program Specific Information - present in every transport stream and states the relationship between available programmes and the PID values of their component elementary streams.

PTS

Presentation Time Stamp - specifies the time at which a picture element (such as a subtitle) should be presented to the viewer.

SDI

Serial Digital Interface - identifies a video signal or video equipment as being in the digital domain.

SI

Service Information - provides details of the programmes being broadcast and is used by the MPEG decoders to configure themselves.

Stripe – Subtitle Style

A subtitle style where the subtitle text is placed in a background stripe that extends to the full width of the screen..

Stripe Subtitle

The Stripe can be in colour and be opaque or semi transparent (ghost).

Teletext

A service provided by broadcasters where data is transmitted alongside the video signal. Teletext data is generally encoded and inserted into the VBI of the video signal. A viewer would require a Teletext decoder in their receiver in order to view the data transmitted. The UK uses a Teletext page (888) to transmit a subtitling service for the hard of hearing.

Timecode

A method of uniquely identifying the time of every frame in a piece of video or film. See BITC, VITC and LTC.

Transcode

A technique that allows the data present in an existing service to drive another subtitle transmission method, such as DVB. The two output types would then have duplicate subtitle data on them. This technique is generally used for simultaneously broadcast channels that are transmitted on differing platforms.

Transport Stream Server

Transport Stream Server- a device that stores complete compressed Transport Streams on a hard disk. Transport streams are played out under automation control either as ASI signals or over a high speed network.

TS

Transport Stream - comprises a number of simultaneously delivered programmes in one signal.

VANC

Vertical ANCillary data, the High Definition equivalent of the VBI. The VANC can be used to carry additional data such as subtitles and timecode.

VBI

Vertical Blanking Interval - a specific period during the video signal (also known as the screen blanking period) where the TV monitor beam returns from the last active TV line to the first. The VBI is used to carry signals other than active TV line information, such as Teletext, Time code, etc.

Video Server

A device that stores video and audio material on a hard disk. Video is played out as uncompressed digital video in various resolutions, including HD, depending on the capability of the Video Server.

VITC

Vertical Interval Time Code - a timing signal with the format HH:MM:SS:FF. It is inserted as a video waveform into the VBI of a video signal, where it is not apparent on the screen