



IBC Stand #2.345

BPR to Launch new “Q5” Television Quality Control Initiative at IBC2002

For most of the people involved in contributing television programmes, the broadcasters' Quality Control (QC) stage is one to dread. The proliferation of broadcast channels has led to an almost equal proliferation of different delivery requirements, and rejected material can be expensive to repair, especially as the timescales are usually tight and the edit material may have been dispersed. For the Independent facility sector that now supplies the majority of UK programme material, there often follows an embarrassing question of apportioning blame.

Understanding the engineering impairments that may be created in the production process and the reasons why these may have occurred is sometimes difficult. The lack of a standard contribution audit trail doesn't help, and the constant introduction of new formats is not improving matters. Many of the small companies involved in the overall process do not possess the necessary test equipment, and there are no standards appropriate for any third-party QC involvement.

Broadcast Product Research, under the guidance of their CEO Dr John Emmett, are therefore proposing a one-stop three-pronged solution to this problem, offering standardisation of QC staff training, an agreed audit trail for the programme material, and independent up-to-date Code-of-Practice tests for the technical facilities who wish to become involved.

The result of this work should enable participating facilities to offer standardised third-party QC (sometimes known as Quality Assurance, or just QA) across the whole of the UK broadcast community.

Oh, and that name? The Q Code was adopted at a conference in London in 1912 to overcome the language problems involved in ship to shore communications. The original list of 50 Q abbreviations adopted are still familiar to amateur operators, and Q5 signified the top quality rating for your signal.

Anyone interested in learning more should go to Stand 2.345 at IBC, or contact John Emmett at q5@bpr.org.uk .

Broadcast Project Research Ltd is a Studio-based Research and Design Group based at Teddington Studios in the UK.

Personnel involved in the Q5 initiative are;

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