Radio TechCheck
The NAB Labs Newsletter for Radio Broadcast Engineers
NAB LABS
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2015 Engineering Achievement Award Winners Announced

Each year NAB selects notable members of the broadcast industry's technical community for recognition with Engineering Achievement Awards. First established in 1959, the awards are given to individuals who are nominated by their peers for significant contributions to advancing the state of the art in broadcast engineering. All awards will be presented at the NAB Technology Luncheon, to be held at the NAB Show in Las Vegas, Nev., on April 15, 2015.

Today NAB announces its Engineering Achievement Award recipients for 2015.

The 2015 NAB Radio Engineering Achievement Award

This year's award winner for Radio Engineering Achievement is Thomas F. King.

Following his graduation from the University of Tennessee with an MSEE degree, Tom's career began in the defense industry as a staff engineer at the Naval Weapons Center in China Lake, California, then as a project engineer at General Research Corporation in McLean, Virginia.

In 1983 Tom joined Kintronic Labs, the company his father, Louis King, founded over half a century ago. The following year, Tom became president of Kintronic Labs, starting a long and accomplished career supporting the radio broadcast industry. Tom's dedication to the "art of RF" led to multiple designs and products that are used worldwide at broadcast facilities.

One such product is the linear actuator-driven RF contactor that eliminated the shock and vibration associated with solenoid-operated RF contactors. This design led to contactors rated at 100-200 amps and 35-85 kV peak voltage. They are in use around the world in high-power medium wave systems.

Seeking ways to help broadcasters locate AM antenna systems in restricted zoning areas, Tom worked with the Star-H Corporation in the joint development of the Kinstar AM low profile, high efficiency, wideband antenna – the first of its kind accepted by the FCC for full-time omni directional operation.

Tom, along with his engineering team, developed many software tools to facilitate the design of AM HD Radio™ and AM Digital Radio Mondiale (DRM) compatible antenna systems. These software tools along with antenna simulation resulted in numerous digital AM transmission facilities becoming operational around the world.

Tom and his team also developed the Model VSU-1 voltage sampling unit that has now been successfully fielded in several directional AM stations in the United States.

Most recently, Tom has filed comments with the FCC reflecting his company's vision to comprehensively improve AM broadcasting. Through his tireless efforts, Tom King has devoted his career to the betterment of the broadcast industry – continuing the effort started by his father in the 1940s.

The 2015 NAB Television Engineering Achievement Award

This year's award winner for Television Engineering Achievement is Richard Friedel.

Richard Friedel is the EVP & General Manager for FOX Networks Engineering and Operations. He oversees long-term technology strategy and day-to-day operations for the FOX Network Center in Los Angeles. Additionally, he heads the FOX House Technical Operations Center, home of FOX Sports' regional networks, and provides technical support for their 14 regional production centers.

Currently, Richard is in the process of implementing his vision for the next-generation FOX Network Operations Center in LA. All of his workstations are designed to be dynamically reconfigurable on demand to support the requirements of the production and operations group at any point in time. The deployment of next-generation master control automation software, along with Station in a Box hardware and vector graphics engines, support virtually any on-air look requested by production teams.

Prior to FOX Networks Engineering and Operations, Richard was a member of the team that launched FOX News Channel. In that role, he coordinated the original design, construction and operations of FOX News' headquarters in New York as well as domestic and international bureaus.

Before joining FOX, Richard served in various positions at Capital Cities/ABC including Director of Network Origination and Transmission and Director of ENG/EFP. While at ABC, he managed broadcast remotes including the 1992 Democratic and Republican National Conventions, the 1989 student uprising in China's Tiananmen Square and numerous Presidential trips overseas.

Prior to ABC, Richard oversaw Technical Services at NBC News. He was instrumental in many of the Today Show's innovative remote productions and the creation of NBC's first electronic journalism field operations department.

A graduate of Drexel University, Richard is a fellow of the SMPTE and serves as President of the Video Services Forum. He is also the FOX representative on the North American Broadcasters Association (NABA) Board of Directors and is a Board member of the ATSC Board of Directors.

The 2015 NAB Service to Broadcast Engineering Award

This year, NAB is presenting a special award that is reserved for certain individuals who have been identified as providing extraordinary service to the industry that may not have been broadly heralded or adequately recognized. An NAB Service to Broadcast Engineering award is being presented to Ray Conover, presently serving as a senior engineering consultant to Hubbard Broadcasting.

Ray formed United Media with partner Dennis Sweet in 1969 while attending the University of Minnesota in order to pursue electronic design and television production activities. Following graduation, Conover joined the engineering staff at KSTP-TV, owned by Hubbard Broadcasting, Inc. in 1972, in addition to his United Media Activities.

At KSTP, Ray was instrumental in the transition to Electronic News Gathering (ENG) and was the first person to operate a portable live camera on the air at KSTP.

In 1983, when Hubbard Broadcasting decided to move forward with the development of Satellite News Gathering (SNG), Ray was in charge of figuring out how to make the system work from day one. He established all the technical parameters for the development of this technology that revolutionized the news business. Ray also coordinated the test phase of the business that would later become CONUS Communications Co., the world's first transportable, satellite-based network, and subsequently went on to design the required SNG vehicle systems and the CONUS SNG control center in St. Paul.

Som of Ray's many projects throughout his career have included SNG projects for Fuji Television in Japan and DBS projects in Malaysia and Korea. He also designed special remote facilities for major events including political conventions, the Olympics, and Disney World's 25th anniversary.
Ray served as Vice President and Director of Engineering at CONUS until that business unit closed in 2002.

Mr. Conover is an extra-class Amateur Radio operator and splits his time between a home in Minneapolis and his laboratory in the mountains northeast of Tucson.

The 2015 Digital Leadership Award Call for Nominations

NAB is currently accepting nominations for the first Digital Leadership award. The award will be presented to an individual at a broadcast station, group or network who has had a significant role in transforming a traditional broadcast business to succeed on digital media platforms.

The deadline for entries is **March 5, 2015.** The winner will be announced at the 2015 NAB Technology Luncheon in Las Vegas, Nev.

For more detailed entry rules, and the nomination form, please visit NAB's website.

Important Dates and Upcoming Events

Audio Engineering Society (AES) 57th Conference: The Future of Audio Entertainment Technology
March 6 - 8, 2015
Hollywood, Claif.

2015 NAB Show
April 11- 16, 2015
Las Vegas, Nev.

RDS Forum Meeting
June 8 - 9, 2015
Glion/Montreux, Switzerland.