

Opening Remarks – Plenary Meeting
ISO/TC 204 – Intelligent Transport Systems
April 27, 2007 – 9:00 a.m.
Lexington, Kentucky

9:00 a.m. Plenary meeting called to order by Chairman Noblett

9:10 a.m. (approx) Welcome remarks from ANSI representative, Joseph Tretler

Joseph Tretler
ANSI Business Director, Standards Facilitation

Thank you Chairman Noblett. Good morning everyone.

On behalf of the members and staff of the American National Standards Institute, the U.S. member body to ISO, I am pleased to welcome you to the United States, and to the City of Lexington, Kentucky for this 29th plenary meeting of ISO Technical Committee 204 – Intelligent Transport Systems.

I find it altogether fitting that you are gathered here in Lexington – here in the horse capital of the world... From four legs and a saddle to innovation on four wheels, your meeting this week embraces transportation's past, present, and future!

The U.S. is proud to have been a founding member of TC 204. We have been participating actively since its launch 15 years ago, and we are pleased to be able to continue to assist this committee to progress its work, to provide leadership for the TC and for the activities of Working Groups 8 and 16, and we are most pleased to host this meeting this week.

I would like to take a moment to recognize TIA - the Telecommunications Industry Association - for taking on duties as Secretary of this committee last year. ANSI thanks TIA, especially Tyler Messa and the support staff for their hard work and commitment that contributes to the success of TC 204.

(pause)

As we all know, information and communication technologies offer a wide range of benefits to the transportation sector, including improved safety, reduced traffic congestion and pollution, and a smoother driving experience.

But to realize these benefits, the interface between the vehicle and telecom needs to be stronger. Today, both industries are striving to provide new and exciting services for consumers, but clearly, the product life span of a cell phone and a car differ by many years.

Standards have a critical role to play in this effort. By working together, we can ensure interoperability with existing systems and build in the flexibility needed to accommodate these different product life spans.

Many organizations are already involved and much progress is already underway. There is a solid foundation and methodology that is moving us forward with the transportation and telecom interface, as well as countless other issues in the world of ITS. Coordination remains critical... I think we all agree that we want to minimize or eliminate duplication of effort and redundancies. Last month's Fully Networked Car Workshop at the Geneva Motor Show was jointly organized by IEC, ITU, and ISO... a perfect example of the standards community's commitment to a collaborative, inter-organizational approach.

(pause)

Clearly, the work of TC 204 is setting the pace. Your activities are helping to shape the growing and evolving face of ITS technologies. You are ushering in a new era of transportation, making all forms of travel more productive, safe, convenient, environmentally friendly, and economically efficient.

ANSI is pleased to see your commitment to global convergence. By coming together in Lexington this week, you are each helping TC 204 advance its mission to achieve interoperability among independent systems while ensuring infrastructural compatibility.

(pause)

Mr. Noblett, I congratulate you on your excellent leadership of this committee, and extend the thanks of the United States and the larger ISO community for your vision and forward-thinking approach.

Many thanks are also due to Ygomi and Trevilon for their generous sponsorship of this meeting.

Finally, kudos to each of you for all of your hard work and ongoing efforts to develop globally relevant standards for intelligent transport systems.

Please . . . have a successful and productive meeting here in Lexington, and don't forget to take time to enjoy some more fine Kentucky straight bourbon whiskey.