

unsatisfactory transient response that resulted from use of 346 mhz SAW filters. This, CEG said, would have a deleterious effect on using the receiver for teletext, which requires a good transient response.

The group also said that changes in receiver design are outside the jurisdiction of the FCC. They said the questions in the notice imply "inefficient solutions to non-existent problems."

In reference to transmitter standards, CEG said they are best examined as a "cohesive package" not as a "hodge-podge" as presented in the notice. The protection criteria questions were a "rehash" of the VHF drop-in inquiry, it said.

Philips brings out another format for home video recorder

System, which won't be in U.S. until 1981, uses small cassette, can record up to eight hours

As manufacturers fight for a share of the home videocassette recorder market, now divided between VHS and Beta formats, N. V. Philips of Holland has introduced yet another system.

The new format abandons the two-tier cassette used in the current Philips VCR. Although never introduced in the United States, the VCR series was one of the first

units for the home market and now enjoys one-third of the European market.

The main feature of the new format is a cassette that looks and acts like an audio cassette, and is about the size of a paperback book. (BROADCASTING, July 2). The new cassette has an eight-hour playing time, although it is necessary to flip over the cassette at the end of four hours. Philips said that by adding another set of heads, there could be eight hours of continuous play. The company will wait to see whether consumers will pay extra for such an option.

In order to obtain the long playing time for each cassette, Philips has used a very high tape density, with the two tracks very close to each other. It says this will lower the cost of an hour's worth of playing time which it considers a main selling point.

Despite the closeness of the tracks, Philips says there is no problem with mis-tracking since a constant feedback device is used. This is done with a constant frequency signal on the tape while recording, which allows the unit to monitor whether the tape heads wandered. The system automatically shifts the heads slightly until proper alignment is obtained. This also permits cassettes to be swapped among different units.

Philips plans to introduce the new system to the U.S., although probably not

before 1981. Roger Woods of Philips said it plans to consolidate its one-third of the European market with the new format before introducing the NTSC unit. The first systems will be in PAL, with SECAM units soon to follow.

The actual unit being shown is the VR-2020, although Philips says this is only part of what could be an entire range in the new format. The unit is similar to those now on the market but with some different features.

The transport system is microprocessor controlled. There is also a digital readout and pushbutton console allowing the user to call up a specific place on the tape by punching in the required number.

The unit can also be programed to start recording at a desired time, and stop when the program is over. Up to five different programs on separate channels can be programed into the unit to record TV programs over a 16-day period.

The price of the European unit is priced between the VHS and Betamax, from \$1,300 to \$1,550. Deliveries are expected to start near the end of the year.

The real battle for the V-2000 series will come in the United States, which Woods said represents 40%-50% of the world market. Philips will then see if it can compete with the only home cassette unit not made in Japan.

Making it a new 17th market.



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InSync

Popular. Nine of 16 radio stations that applied to FCC for authority to test AM stereo systems have tested Kahn/Hazeltine system. System may be simplest, broadcasting stereo information on sidebands. Consequently, stereo programing can be received by using two radios—one tuned slightly higher than carrier frequency for right channel, other tuned slightly lower for left channel. Nine include WABC New York, KHJ Los Angeles, KDKA Pittsburgh and KING Seattle who all shelled out \$12,000—the cost of stereo system—for privilege of conducting tests.

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Expansionists. KTXL-TV Sacramento, Calif., to make room for its growing news staff and new news studio, is constructing \$800,000 addition to station that will nearly double square footage—from 11,400 to 22,186. Addition is expected to be completed by December. Independent UHF is also installing receive-only earth station. ABC affiliate, KATU(TV) Portland, Ore., is in midst of more extensive plans. It is constructing two-story structure (20,000 square feet) adjacent to its present facility. New structure, expected to cost around \$3 million, will house news, programing, promotion, production, art and field production departments. Thomas R. Durgan, executive vice president, thinks facility will be ready on March 1, 1980.

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Beat the Heat. National Association of Broadcasters has sent out some advice to its member stations on how to cope with President Carter's energy conservation guidelines for heating and air conditioning—65 degrees in winter and 78 degrees in summer. Memo pointed out that those temperatures refer to the coldest or warmest spots in a building, though effort must be made to make sure every place is as close to prescribed temperature as possible. According to NAB, number of exemptions are available including one for broadcasters with heat-sensitive transmitters.

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Starting from scratch. President's guidelines would be easier to follow with new studio like one KOCO-TV Oklahoma City is in process of constructing. Facility employs latest in passive solar energy design. Overhang shields interior from direct rays of the sun in summer and, except for early morning hours when heat is needed, winter. In winter cool air is brought in from outside to keep studio, heated by lights, cool; as cool air picks up heat it is moved into office area where it helps keep things warm. In summer precious cool air in studio generated by air conditioner is conserved by dirt piled eight feet high on exterior walls. Frank Rees, Oklahoma City architect who designed facility, said cost of project is \$2.4 million.