

of General Telephone & Electronics Corp., the tube uses special phosphors and a screening process that result in "tubes that were more than 40% brighter on the average than any other available color tubes."

Sylvania also announced that its 25-inch, 90-degree rectangular color tube will be available in quantities early this year. Samples of the tube were sent to manufacturers several months ago.

Technical topics . . .

Colorful offering ■ Spring catalog of Sears Roebuck & Co., Chicago, which is now going into distribution includes a \$669.95 offering of a new Silvertone 25-inch rectangular tube color TV set for the first time. Sears offers its "best" 21-inch color set at \$539.95. Sears' Chicago store last week featured a 21-inch color set at \$319.

Exciting development ■ A new, solid-state, independent sideband transmitter exciter for linear amplifiers is now available from Kahn Research Laboratories Inc., Freeport, N. Y. According to the manufacturer, the unit operates in the following modes: SSB, ISB, FSK, CW and CSSB. The CSSB mode provides a narrowband version of the compatible single-sideband signal developed for broadcasters by the firm. Additional features are module construction and a choice of up to 10 RF frequencies.

Tape storage ■ The Jack C. Coffey Co. Inc., North Chicago, Ill., has announced a new line of Luxor video tape storage cabinets and filing systems. Capacities of the firm's add-on units range from eight 14-inch video tape reels up to 45 six-inch, six-and-a-half inch and eight-inch reels. Four basic units may be used to form combinations.

Updating gear ■ Nortronics Co., Minneapolis, has introduced three new head bracket assembly kits which are designed to update existing broadcast tape cartridge recorders of the Fidelipac and Viking type. The new units reduce head installation and alignment problems and eliminate the need for rear-mounted heads.

New GE entry ■ General Electric has added a second battery-powered transistorized 9-inch portable television set to its line. The TR803 which also operates on house current, carries a suggested retail price of \$149.95.

Back again ■ Teleprompter Corp. New York, will supply the national network facilities for the closed-circuit theater showing of the 1965 Indianapolis 500-mile Memorial Day race, as it did last year, according to MCA-TV.

Spacing waived in KBMT move

FCC allows less than
minimum separation
to equalize competition

The FCC last week lowered the bars of its television table of allocations to permit the relocation of a station that claimed its present site hurt its competitive position and that of ABC, with which it is affiliated.

The station is KBMT(TV) (ch. 12) Beaumont, Tex., whose present transmitter site practically borders on the Gulf of Mexico. Its new transmitter site, some 33 miles north, is between the transmitters of two competing stations, KFDM-TV (ch. 6) Beaumont, and KPAC-TV (ch. 4) Port Arthur.

However, it is also 18 miles closer to KSLA-TV (ch. 12) Shreveport, La., than permitted by standard mileage separation. Commission approval of the relocation was conditioned on KBMT protecting the Shreveport station from interference.

KBMT had argued that it needed to relocate if it was to operate on even terms with the two other stations in the market. It also said the move would enhance ABC's competitive position in the area with respect to CBS and NBC, which are affiliated with the other stations.

The station is expected to pick up a net gain in potential circulation of 36,000 persons as a result of the move.

Scales Favor Move ■ The commission said the benefits gained from equalizing competition among the stations and the networks outweigh the disadvantages of the short-spacing involved. An air safety factor in grouping the three stations' tower in the same general area was also cited.

The commission heeded a similar argument, concerning equalization of competition, last summer, when it approved the short-spaced move-in of WVEC-TV (ch. 13) Hampton-Norfolk, Va. ABC was a beneficiary of that move also, since it is affiliated with WVEC-TV.

Last week's action, which had been foreshadowed by a tentative decision last month (CLOSED CIRCUIT, Dec. 21, 1964), was adopted by a 4-2 vote. Chairman E. William Henry and Commissioners Rosel H. Hyde, Lee Loevinger and Kenneth A. Cox were in the majority. Commissioners Robert T.

Bartley and Robert E. Lee dissented.

Commissioner Lee issued a statement asserting that the commission should not abuse its engineering standards to equalize competition among stations. Efforts to remove imbalances should be made only within the rules, he said.

In approving the move-in, the commission rejected petitions by KSLA-TV and KPAC-TV and objections of the Association of Maximum Service Telecasters, which had opposed the grant.

Three more urge class IV power hike

Support continued to trickle in to the FCC last week favoring the proposal by Community Broadcasters Association that the agency increase the nighttime operating power of class IV local channel stations.

The latest petitions, all favoring the proposal, were submitted by Sparks Broadcasting Co. (WEXL Royal Oak, Mich.), Western Connecticut Broadcasting Co. (WSTC-AM-FM Stamford), and Coast Ventura Co. (KVEN Ventura, Calif.).

In a petition filed last November, and yet to be acted on by the commission, CBA asked that a rulemaking proceeding be instituted looking towards amending current FCC regulations to allow class IV local channel stations to operate with a maximum power of 1 kw during nighttime hours.

Local channel stations, permitted since 1958 to operate with 1 kw during daytime hours, are restricted to a 250-w maximum at night.

The three stations generally agreed that the CBA proposal, which was accompanied by an engineering report from A.D. Ring & Associates, Washington consulting engineers, is feasible both from the technical and economic standpoints (BROADCASTING, Dec. 21, 1964).

Also commenting last week on the CBA proposal was the Association on Broadcasting Standards, a Washington-based group representing licensees of standard (AM) broadcast stations.

ABS said that it takes no position on the proposed rules other than its concern of possible adjacent channel nighttime interference if the power hike is adopted.

The organization said it felt that neither CBA nor the Ring report have proven substantially that adjacent channel interference would not occur and that the commission should not initiate rulemaking until this can be factually shown.