

## **Minutes of the NMRA Nuremberg Meeting on Saturday, Feb 12<sup>th</sup> 2005. Toy Fair, Room Bremen, 10 – 12h.**

### **Participants:**

John Roberts – NMRA–President, Rutger Friberg – NMRA Tech Chair, Jan Abbink – NMRA Coordinator Europe, Marco–Claudio Pardini – Mondo Ferroviario, Stefan Bormann – Fremo, Reinhard Müller – Fremo, Frank Stöhr – Massoth, Udo Ehrlings – E. P. Lehmann, Allen Pollock – NMRA, Peter Ziegler – Zimo, Jack Treves – Morop, Thorsten Fradl – Lenz, Johann Steindl – Roco, Berthold Schopperer – Roco, Andreas Weiß – Trix, Lars Schilling – Märklin, Thomas Marcel – CDF, Tadashi Naiua – Kato USA, Shigro Akada – Kato Japan, Prof. Rainer B. Voges – Conrad Electronis / Moba, Ingo Planert – Viessmann, Armin Bacher – Digitrax, George Rily – Digitrax, Winfried Seewald – Tillig, Kürgen Lindner – ESU, Ewald Sperrer – STP Software, Dr. Grünig – Fleischmann, Dr. Förster – Fleischmann, Dr. Vaupel – Uhlenbrock Elektronik, Stefano Chiti–Batelli – Uhlenbrock Electronic, Bertold Langer – Press, Tom Catherall – Märklin, Terry Thompson – Kalmbach Publishing, Klaus Kern – Märklin

### **General:**

John Roberts opens the meeting and welcomes the participants. John explains how to move forward in the WG with respect to contemporary developments in the WG.

### **Bi–Directional:**

Rutger Friberg focussed on Bi–Directional. We should actually talk about feedback systems instead of bi–directional systems. Nowadays we have 3 major developments: Railcom (Lenz and Zimo), Lissy (Uhlenbrock and Fleischmann) and Mfx (Märklin and ESU). It is the goal of the NMRA to reassure that DCC–standards based on non–commercial platforms are being developed and kept. To date we have different types of feedback systems. The NMRA accepts these different systems. The manufacturers should decide what system to use. A mid range plan (3 –> years) should make sure, that the different systems should be able to co–exist and work together on a single layout. In order to proceed in the WG and make faster progress, the NMRA suggests as a result of the Phoenix meeting, to divide the WG into two sub groups: A manufacturers sub group dealing with software and technical aspects and a users sub group. The RP that is being written and discussed about right now will be presented during or shortly after the spring meeting in Europe. The RP will describe the technology of feedback so others will know how to move forward on this subject.

### **C&I Technical Centre Europe:**

The current situation was shown on the slides as well as the proposal how to move forward. Rutger Friberg asked for who is in favour of the proposed plan. 15 in favour, 5 against. The proposal was accepted, a group will prepare for the spring meeting at Fleischmann.

### **Spring meeting Fleischmann:**

The topics were accepted. Only one enhancement: 21– vs. 8–pin connectors. Reinhard Müller was asked to make a proposal. The call for items is still open!

### **AOB:**

None

Jan Abbink.

Attachment: Slides partially shown during the meeting.

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**Saturday, Feb. 12<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 – 12:00 h, Bremen room**

**Today's agenda :**

- **Status Conformance and Inspection (C&I) Center Europe**
- **Contemporary overview of the Status on Bi-Directional**
- **Preparation Spring Meeting @ Fleischmann**
- **AOB**

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## Status C&I Center Europe (excerpt)

### Items discussed and decided upon to date :

- NMRA Testing Capacity is Limited (Gladbeck 2001)
- EU C&I Center is to be Established (Gladbeck 2001)
- EU C&I Center will operate in German and English (Nürnberg 2002, Vienna 2002)
- Two governing Groups selected (Nürnberg 2002, Vienna 2002)
  - Technical
  - Administrative and Finance
- Start C&I Center with volunteers (Vienna 2002, Hallein 2004)
- Start C&I Center with simple Go / No-Go Test (Hallein 2004)

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## **C&I Items to be decided upon today**

**Necessary: Consensus Decision to start C&I Center EU**

**To Do: Set a Timetable and a detailed 'Startup Plan' ready @ the Fleischmann Meeting which should include :**

- **Necessary Steps from Decision point to 'Production Start'**
- **Define Capacity need for 2005 (How many decoders of what type)**
- **Outlook for 2006: Capacity Need for Decoders, Preparation for Command Station Test**
- **Equipment needs in total, what is available, what to purchase**
- **A Policy on Operational Costs versus a Fee for Testing Decoders**
- **QA Checks by means of Double Blind Studies**
- **Define Governing Group(s) the support the Process**
- **Inform other DCC WG Member not present here today**

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## Status on Bi-Directional

### What happened since Hallein :

- Task force
- Approach
- Timing and next Steps

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## Bi-Directional

### Task Force :

- Stan Ames, Brian Barnt, Bob Jacobsen (Chair), Peter Ely
- Charged to provide a bi-directional specification
  - 1: “Acceptable to all participating manufacturers”
  - 2: for presentation back to the WG for discussion and adoption
- Working intensively via email & phone calls

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## Bi-Directional

### Approach :

- **Started with existing RP drafts, plus lists of all concerns raised in discussion**
- **Working through these**
  - **Created a companion Technical Note to hold clarifications, background, context**
  - **Built a timing spreadsheet to ensure that timing margins are correct**
  - **Now working to find proper solutions & compromises for remaining issues**
- **Will present to WG with a note listing**
  - **things we changed / updated / added**
  - **questions that still remain****for discussion and decision**

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## Bi-Directional

### Timing and next Steps :

- Get RP 9.3.1 & related Tech Note out before Nuremberg or shortly thereafter
- WG discussion, leading to formal comment period starting in March
- RP 9.3.2 update to follow, expect out to WG before end March
- Discussions at European meeting March 31<sup>^</sup>- April 2 will be important
- Decisions via WG email list should follow closely after that

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## Preparation Spring Meeting @ Fleischmann

### Important items:

- Hosted by : Fleischmann
- When : March 31<sup>th</sup> – April 2<sup>nd</sup> 2005
- Where : Hotel Sonne, D-91564 Neuendettelsau
- Hotel : Reservations until March 8<sup>th</sup>!
- Agenda : Call for Items  
(Items so far)
  - Time Table C&I EU
  - Startup Plan EU
  - Service Mode Decoder Lock
  - Functions F13 through F??
  - Bi-directional Communication