

M-Noise Contribution to Standards Bodies Makes Progress at AES, AVIXA, and SMPTE

M-Noise is a scientifically derived test signal that is a superior approximation of musical program content.

Since Meyer Sound introduced M-Noise in 2019, several standards organizations have shown a continued interest in the test signal and its accompanying procedure for determining a loudspeaker system's maximum linear peak SPL as well as its alternative applications.

During the 147th AES Convention in New York, a task group was founded to investigate the potential merit of adopting both the test signal and procedure as an official AES standard. The standard would measure loudspeaker maximum SPL in a repeatable manner which closely represents the values determined in practice with typical program material.

The task group consists of members which represent the audio industry at large, including (but not limited to), pro audio, consumer electronics, automotive, content creators, streaming services as well as cinema, measurement equipment manufacturers, measurement software developers, and more. Ever since the AES Convention, the task group meets every other week and is making steady progress in drafting the AES standard based on Meyer Sound's work.

The task group's work has attracted the attention of SMPTE whose B-Chain Characteristics and Expectations Working Group continues to evaluate the M-Noise test signal — in the context of an in-situ application — to measure cinema and post-production facilities' sound systems.

Meanwhile, on a separate track, AVIXA is considering the inclusion of M-Noise in validating the end-to-end transmission quality throughout the entire signal chain in sound reinforcement and playback systems.

Meyer Sound is delighted to see that all of this hard work is starting to pay off in various ways — such as M-Noise metrics finding their way into tenders — and is happy to have contributed this new and improved method for capturing performance data to the industry.