

**Is DMX-Link ESTA “ACN” ready?**  
Will current hardware be upgradable to the ‘new’ standard?

At this point there is no ESTA ACN protocol. For the last several years a task group of the ESTA Control Protocol Working Group has had a project to write a TCP/IP based protocol.

During the first half of 2001 this project was made an official ANSI project with the designation BSR E1.17, Entertainment Technology - Multipurpose Network Control Protocol Suite. As of the fall of 2001 details of the protocol have not been released, even to the members of CPWG. Once a draft protocol exists our experience with revising DMX512 leads us to believe that it will take much longer than anyone wishes to get a consensus protocol adopted.

It is not the policy of Goddard Design to certify its equipment to run **vapor-ware**.

So will an investment in DMX-Link or other Art-Net compliant hardware soon become obsolete?

**No.** While repeating the caveat that we cannot build hardware to run vapor-ware we believe that **DMX-Link** equipment will have a long life. The reasons that we are willing to say this are:

**DMX-Link** hardware is field re-programable. As changes are made to the Art-Net protocol our units can be upgraded.

The Art-Net community is committed to the active interchange of information between Art-Net devices and devices speaking an ESTA TCP/IP based protocol, if one is finally adopted. However the exact form of this interchange cannot presently be stated and could require a protocol bridge.

It is in the interests of the framers of proposed new protocols to provide the industry with low cost means of implementing them - or the penetration of any new protocol within the lighting industry will be superficial. Any new protocol that cannot be handled in some way by hardware similar to that used by DMX-Link and other Art-Net compliant devices is unlikely to achieve broad use.

It is Goddard Design's position that for any lighting equipment manufacturer to sell “ACN ready” equipment now is premature.

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