

# Robert Goddard receives ESTA's first Lifetime Technical Achievement Award



ON JULY 23RD AT THE ESTA MEETINGS in Westlake, TX, Bob Goddard was the first recipient of the ESTA Lifetime Technical Achievement Award. The selection of Bob was an obvious one; his work is everything this award was created to recognize.

Bob started at the Fillmore East in the late 1960s and from there, went on to design some of the earliest truly robust touring control equipment for See Factor Industry. This included the first pulse-width-modulated split/dipless crossfader—for which he received his first US patent. Bob and John Chester went on to design one of the first high performance and reliable intercom systems, produced by Chaos Audio.

After forming Goddard Design, Bob quickly became known as the go-to resource for electronic engineering solutions. Bob worked on one of the first computerized lighting control systems to use a video display, early scenery automation, the first use of a wireless DMX512 system, and numerous custom control solutions for concert touring and nightclubs.

Perhaps the device that Bob is best known for is the “Li'l DMXter.” This was the first widely available DMX512 Tester/Analyzer. This device has become an integral component for DMX512 interoperability solutions and helped create the billion dollar market enabled by *E1.27*, ESTA's

standard for portable control cables for use with DMX512. The device is having a new life today as manufacturers work through implementation of the *E1.20 Remote Device Management* standard.

The ESTA Board of Directors and Technical Standards Council created this important new award to provide recognition to individuals whose technical contributions have had a significant impact on our industry. The criteria for the ESTA Lifetime Technical Achievement Award include significant and sustained technical contributions to the entertainment industry over at least 25 years; contributions may be related to the development of innovative products, tools, technology, safety improvements, interoperability, or processes; and contributions may be in any entertainment-related discipline including but not limited to lighting, sound, automation, rigging, projection, facility design/construction.

Throughout his career, Bob has been generous with his expertise, time, and talents, including his work on ESTA standards and at the Control Protocols Plugfest. ESTA is privileged to have Bob in our industry and honored to award him the first ESTA Lifetime Technical Achievement Award.

Congratulations and thank you to Bob! ■