



**Video Services Forum, Inc.
News Letter**

Date: 11/28/2007

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This is the eighth issue of Video Services Forum (VSF) News Letter. The VSF feels that it is important to keep you informed about what is going on within the VSF. As we realize that your time is valuable, we have kept this News Letter deliberately brief.

VSF Directors and Officers:

The current list Directors and Officers are shown below showing term expirations:

Director	Company	Term Expires
Paul Atwell	ION Media Networks	2009
Pierre Costa	AT&T	2009
John Dale	Media Links	2009
Mary-Luc Champel	Thomson Grass Valley	2009
Richard Friedel	Fox Broadcasting	2008
John Mailhot	Harris Broadcast	2008
Steve Storozum	Level 3 Communications	2008
Brian Wilson	Verizon	2008

President	Derek Smith	Level 3 Communications	2009
Vice President	Carl Ostrom	System Resource	2009
Secretary/Treasurer	Roger Hatcher	State of Georgia	2008

VSF Board of Directors elections are held at the annual member meeting. The 2008 Annual Meeting will take place on February 13, 2008 in Houston, Texas during the 2008 Joint Conference with SMPTE. As required by the VSF Bylaws, you will receive notification of the VSF Annual Meeting 30 days prior to the meeting.

Administrative and Technical Staff:

Brad Gilmer – Gilmer and Associates, VSF Executive Director
Barbara Main – VSF Administration
Bob Ruhl – VSF Operations Manager

VSF Current Member List:

Altera Corporation
AmericanFreeTV
Analog Devices Inc. – PENDING
Artel Video Systems
AT&T
Bell Canada
BRIDGETECH
British Telecommunications
Broadmetrics Ltd
CBC/Radio-Canada
Comtech EF Data
Digital Fountain
Dimetis GmbH
DirecTV
DVBLink, Inc.
Evertz
Fox Broadcasting
Genesis Networks
Georgia Technology Authority
Harmonic, Inc.
Harris Broadcast Communications
IneoQuest Technologies, Inc.
Ion Media Networks
Iowa Public Television
IPITEK
Juniper Networks
Level 3 Communications
Media Links, Inc.
MEDIATVCOM
MESoft, Inc.
Merrill Weiss Group
Modulus Video, Inc.
Net Insight
Network Electronics ASA
NetworkFX Communications, LLC
Pathfire, Inc.
Pleora Technologies
QVidium Technologies, Inc.
Rivulet Communications, Inc.
Scientific-Atlanta, a Cisco Company

Spirent Communications
Sunrise Telecom
Symmetricom
System Resource, Carl Ostrom, Principal
T-VIPS
TANDBERG Television
Telecom Product Consulting, Wes Simpson, Principal
Thomson Grass Valley
Turner Broadcasting
UPC Broadband
Verizon Communications
Video Clarity, Inc
Video Products Group
Vyvx
Westar Satellite Services
Xilinx

Meetings and Conferences:

The **SMPTE and VSF 2008 Joint Conference and Exhibition** will be held February 10 - 13, 2008 in Houston, Texas at the InterContinental Houston Hotel, 2222 West Loop South, Houston, TX 77027. Conference registration is now open on the [SMPTE](#) and [Video Services Forum](#) websites. The pre-registration deadline to guarantee the early bird conference rate of \$550 is Friday, January 11, 2008. Hotel rooms can be booked at the conference room block rate of \$169 until Friday, January 25, 2008.

To sponsor and event or exhibit at the Joint Conference please visit the Video Services Forum website at <http://www.videoservicesforum.org> or the SMPTE website at <http://www.smpte.org> for more information.

The **October 2007 VSF Meeting Series** was held October 2 - 3 in Basking Ridge, New Jersey and was hosted by Verizon. This meeting proved to be popular, with over 90 people in attendance. On day 1, Verizon provided an introduction to their FiOS Experience which included a visit to a mockup of a customer residence that showed how consumers would use the FiOS service. For additional information on the meeting, agenda and presentations, please visit: <http://www.videoservicesforum.org/Meetings/index.htm>.

The **May 2008 VSF Meeting Series** will be held May 13 - 14 in Atlanta, Georgia and will be hosted by Turner Broadcasting. More information will be posted on the VSF site as it becomes available.

VSF Activity Groups:

VSF Activity Groups (AGs) supply input and expertise to various industry standards bodies on behalf of the VSF. These are some of the topics that VSF Activity Groups are actively addressing:

The **WAN Video IP Activity Group** is investigating high quality/contribution video over IP infrastructure current or draft standard documents with the objective of leveraging the VSF knowledge base and making appropriate recommendations, modifications or developing new documents.

Co-Chairs: Pierre Costa, AT&T and John Dale III, Media Links, Inc.

The **COP3 Standardization Activity Sub-group** has completed its work on sponsoring the standardization of MPEG-2 over IP with FEC. The VSF worked closely with SMPTE to produce the two-part SMPTE standard known as SMPTE 2022-2007. This document has two parts. The first part, SMPTE 2022-1 defines a standard implementation of a FEC scheme to provide a predictable packet recovery process for interoperability in a multi-vendor environment. The second part, SMPTE 2022-2, defines a specific mapping of MPEG2 Transport Streams into RTP and subsequently on to IP networks. This can be used with or without FEC.

Chair: Carl Ostrom, System Resource

COP3 VBR Activity Sub-group: The COP3 (SMPTE 2002-2) specification assumes Continuous Bit Rate (CBR) video streams. In practice, many encoded video streams (MPEG-2, MPEG-4 AVC, and VC-1) have variable bit-rate. A FEC-based receiver that assumes an incoming CBR stream may pace the recovered video stream to the decoder with unacceptable jitter. The purpose of the VBR Activity Sub-Group is to determine adaptations that are required to COP3 or the CBR stream model to ensure optimal decoder performance after the FEC receiver output.

The VSF committee on Variable Bit Rate MPEG video over IP has begun work on defining an interoperable transport and FEC process for standardization. The committee is comprised of a number of encoder and decoder manufacturers, as well as end users. The committee has a make up similar to the COP3 CBR committee. The goal is to define a VBR FEC scheme that can accommodate both the robustness and efficient throughput required for contribution applications as well as the bit rate flexibility and low overhead necessary for distribution applications. While the work will not directly depend on the SMPTE 2022 standard (COP3 CBR), it will rely heavily on the foundations of that work. An initial draft was presented at the spring 2007 meeting of the VSF.

The committee defined two proposals based on that draft. One proposal requires the insertion of "Time Stamps" for contribution applications, the other proposal, oriented toward IPTV delivery to home set top boxes, does not require times stamps. The committee will initially focus on the latter version without time stamps. A draft proposal of this process was presented at the Fall VSF meeting.

Chair: Carl Ostrom, System Resource

The **High Bit Rate IP Video/Audio Transport and FEC Activity Group** will create and shepherd a standard for an encapsulation and FEC process for high bit rate video/audio services, with bit rates up to 3Gb/s. This work will address both uncompressed and lightly-compressed video and audio formats.

Goals are to:

- Define the encapsulation process for SMPTE 259M-C, SMPTE 292M, SMPTE 305M, JPEG2000, and MPEG2 TS.
- Define the FEC process for low-latency, high-bit-rate, content-agnostic CBR RTP datagrams.
- Define the FEC process for low-latency, high-bit-rate VBR RTP datagrams.

Co-Chairs: Pierre Costa, AT&T and Ryan Korte, Level 3 Communications

The **Video Over IP Interoperability Demonstration Activity Group** conducted a successful demonstration in the Exhibit area of the 2007 Joint Conference with SMPTE in Orlando, Florida. John Dale, with input from other AG members, authored an article on the results “Video over IP (SMPTE 2022) Interoperability Demonstration January 2007” which was published in the October 2007 Issue of the SMPTE Journal. The article is also available via a link on the VSF website home page.

Chair: John Dale III, Media Links

To learn more about these Activity Groups please visit:
<http://www.videoservicesforum.org/about/index.htm>.

Other News:

We will be making additional updates to the VSF website to make it easier for you to navigate the VSF site. We will notify you when this work is completed.

News Letters and Press Releases are also available on-line, on the VSF website home page, to all without need for access codes.

If you have any comments or suggestions on the VSF website and/or News Letter please send them to Bob Ruhl at bob.ruhl@comcast.net.

Well, that’s it for now. If there is any topic that you would like to see covered in the next issue of the News Letter, please contact Bob Ruhl.