



Video Services Forum, Inc. News Letter

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This is the tenth 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 since the VSF is **your** organization. As we realize that your time is valuable, we have kept this News Letter deliberately brief.

VSF Directors and Officers:

During the 1Q of every year, VSF Board of Directors elections are held at the annual member meeting. This year the meeting will take place on February 11, 2009 in Los Angeles, California during VidTrans09. The current Board is shown below with their term expiration dates. VSF Board Members are elected by VSF Members.

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	2010
Brendan Smith	Harris Broadcast	2010
Steve Storozum	Level 3 Communications	2010
Brian Wilson	Verizon	2010

The following VSF Officers continue to serve out the remainder of their two-year terms, which run through February 2009. VSF Officers are elected by the VSF Board.

President	Derek Smith	Unicast & Pathfire	2009
Vice President	Carl Ostrom	System Resource	2009
Secretary/Treasurer	Roger Hatcher	State of Georgia	2009

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
- AmericaFree.TV
- Analog Devices, Inc.
- Artel Video Systems
- AT&T
- BRIDGETECH A/S
- British Telecommunications
- CBC/Radio Canada
- Comtech EF Data
- Digital Fountain
- Dimetis GmbH
- DIRECTV
- DVBLink
- Evertz
- Fox Broadcasting
- Genesis Networks
- Georgia Technology Authority
- Harmonic, Inc.
- Harris Broadcast Communications
- IneoQuest Technologies
- intoPIX
- ION Media Networks, Inc.
- Iowa Public Television
- IPITEK
- Kontrol Media Corp.
- Level 3 Communications
- Magnum Semiconductor
- Media Links, Inc.
- MEDIATVCOM
- MediaXstream, Inc
- Merrill Weiss Group
- Mixed Signals

- Motorola, Inc.
- Net Insight
- Network Electronics ASA
- NetworkFX Communications
- Path 1, a division of IPVN
- Pleora Technologies, Inc.
- Qvidium Technologies, Inc.
- Scientific-Atlanta, A Cisco Company
- Sencore, Inc.
- Signiant
- Spirent Communications
- Sunrise Telecom
- Symmetricom
- System Resource Consulting
- TANDBERG Television
- Telstra Corporation Limited
- Telecom Product Consulting
- Thomson Grass Valley
- Turner Broadcasting
- T-VIPS
- Verizon
- Video Clarity, Inc.
- Video Products Group/ Network Electronics ASA
- VQLink Incorporated
- Vyvx
- Xlinux

Meetings and Conferences:

VidTrans09 Conference and Exhibition will be held **February 10 - 12, 2009 at the Marina Del Rey Marriott, Los Angeles, California.**

This year's theme is "Advancing Video Technologies: Innovative Options for Video Transport. The conference is a unique gathering of service providers, equipment Manufacturers, end users and others involved with the dynamic world of television and video. The conference is sure to be informative, educational, and enlightening.

We have 15 out of 20 Booths reserved as of this writing so if you would like to exhibit please visit the "For Exhibitors" section of the VidTrans09 conference page to view the open booths; <http://videoservicesforum.org>. The current list of exhibitors are; *Artel Video Systems, Dimetis GmbH, Evertz, HaiVision, Harris Broadcast Communications, intoPIX, Media Links Inc., Miranda, Net Insight AB, Network/VPG , Sencore, T-VIPS, Tandberg TV- part of the Ericsson Group.*

Early bird Registration, Lodging, Sponsorship opportunities as well as Call for Papers are available at: <http://videoservicesforum.org>.

The **October 2008 VSF Meeting Series** was held **October 6 - 7 in Austin, Texas and hosted by AT&T Laboratories**. Access to meeting presentations is limited to VSF Members as well as meeting attendees.

The **May 2008 VSF Meeting Series** was held **May 13 & 14 in Atlanta, Georgia and was hosted by Turner Broadcasting**. Access to meeting presentations is limited to VSF Members as well as meeting attendees.

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:

CoP3 VBR Activity Sub-group: The CoP3 (SMPTE) specification assumes CBR video streams. In practice many encoded video streams (MPEG-2, MPEG-4 AVC, VC-1) have a variable bit rate. The purpose of the VBR AG is to determine adaptations or new processes that are required to modify the CBR processes defined in 2022-1 and 2022-2 to assure optimal performance of devices after the FEC output, as well as interoperability of the devices performing the FEC process.

The committee is comprised of a number of encoder and decoder manufacturers, as well as users. 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 this work will not be dependant on the SMPTE 2022 CBR documents, it will rely heavily on the foundations of that work.

Two works are in process. One for IPTV emission applications, and one for contribution applications. The IPTV document is close to completion, but waiting on the contribution document to see if the two can be combined into one work. The Contribution document is currently in the documentation process. A proposed document is under review and refinement.

Chair: Carl Ostrom, System Resource

The **High Bit Rate Audio Video over IP (HBRAV- IP) Transport and FEC Committee** will create and shepherd a standard for an encapsulation and FEC process for high bit rate contribution oriented video/audio services up to 3Gbps over IP/Ethernet networks. This is to incorporate both uncompressed and lightly compressed video and audio formats.

1. Define encapsulation/FEC process for SMPTE 259M/C, SMPTE 292M, SMPTE 305M, SMPTE 424M, & JPEG2000

This will include both CBR RTP datagram streams (259M, 292M, 305M, 424M) and VBR RTP datagram streams for JPEG2000

2. This shall include Liaison with other organizations such as EBU, IETF, JTC & SMPTE with the mission of creating of non-conflicting world wide standards for contribution video over IP

Co-Chairs: Pierre Costa, AT&T, Ryan Korte, Level 3 Communications & John Dale, Media Links, Inc.

The **Quality of Experience (QoE) Activity Group** will expand the work of the Test and Measurements Activity Group and its Recommendation on Video over IP Metrics (available on the VSF web site) to payload- and content-related QoE measurements. This includes the following tasks:

1. Defining metrics for characterizing the payload and content quality of video streams.
2. Describing the interactions between transport losses and video payload and their impact on QoE.
3. Producing a detailed list of metrics characterizing video quality, similar in format to the Video over IP Metrics report. The list will provide a description of each metric and how it is computed, its usefulness and application to video services, as well as possible measurement locations in a video delivery system.

Co-Chairs: Stefan Winkler, Symmetricom, and Pierre Costa, AT&T

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

Other News:

We have made additional updates to the VSF web-site so check out the **Drop down Menu, Member Scroll List** and **Industry Job Postings** added recently at: <http://www.videoservicesforum.org> when you have a chance.

We recently changed the VSF Members-only single access code for VSF Meetings and VidTrans conference notes located in the archive section. If you are a VSF Member and have not received these access codes please contact Bob Ruhl at bob.ruhl@comcast.net.

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

Well, that's it for now. If you have any comments or suggestions, or if there is a topic that you would like to see covered in the next issue of the News Letter, please contact Bob Ruhl.