Video Services Forum, Inc.
News Letter

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This is the eleventh 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 took on February 11, 2009 at the Marina Del Rey Marriott, Los Angeles, California during VidTrans09. As a result of this meeting the four board members were elected to two year terms as indicated in the following table.

Director	Company	Term Expires
Rick Ackermans	Turner Broadcasting	2011
Pierre Costa	AT&T	2011
John Dale	Media Links	2011
Mary-Luc Champel	Thomson Grass Valley	2011
Richard Friedel	Fox Broadcasting	2010
Brendan Smith	Harris Broadcast	2010
Steve Storozum	Level 3 Communications	2010
Brian Wilson	Verizon	2010

The following VSF Officers were elected by the VSF Board for two-year terms, which run through February 2011.

President	Derek Smith	Unicast & Pathfire	2011
Vice President	Carl Ostrom	System Resource	2011
Secretary/Treasurer	Roger Hatcher	State of Georgia	2011

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:
- AboveNet, Inc.
- AmericaFree.TV
- Analog Devices, Inc.
- Artel Video Systems
- AT&T
- Barco Silex
- BRIDGETECH A/S
- British Telecommunications
- CBC/Radio Canada
- Comtech EF Data
- DekTec Digital Video B.V.
- Dimetis GmbH
- DIRECTV
- DVBLink
- Evertz
- Fox Broadcasting
- Georgia Technology Authority
- Harris Broadcast Communications
- IneoQuest Technologies
- intoPIX
- Level 3 Communications
- Magnum Semiconductor
- Media Links, Inc.
- MediaXstream, Inc
- Merrill Weiss Group
- Mixed Signals
- Motorola, Inc.
- Net Insight
- Network Electronics ASA
- Path 1, a division of IPVN
- Pathfire, Inc.
- Qvidium Technologies, Inc.

- Scientific-Atlanta, A Cisco Company
- Sencore, Inc.
- Signiant
- Spirent Communications
- Symmetricom
- System Resource Consulting
- T-VIPS
- TANDBERG Television
- Telecom Product Consulting
- Telstra Corporation Limited
- Thomson Grass Valley
- Turner Broadcasting
- Verizon
- Video Clarity, Inc.
- Video Products Group/ Network Electronics ASA
- VQLink Incorporated
- Vyvx
- Xlinix

Meetings and Conferences:

VidTrans09 Conference and Exhibition was held **February 10 - 12, 2009 at the Marina Del Rey Marriott, Los Ángeles, California.**
This year's theme was "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 was informative, educational, and enlightening. Meeting presentations have been posted on the VSF site and access to meeting presentations is limited to VSF Members as well as meeting attendees.

The ***VSF May Meeting Series*** will be held in Montreal, Canada and Hosted by CBC-Radio/Canada. It will be held May 5-6, 2009. Registration for this meeting is currently available at www.videoservicesforum.org.

The ***VSF October Meeting Series*** will be held in Charlotte, North Carolina Hosted by Fox-*SPEED* facility. It will be held October 6-7, 2009.

VidTrans2010 Conference and Exposition will be held in Atlanta, Georgia at the Ritz Carlton, Buckhead on February 2-4, 2010.

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.

Three works are in process, one for IPTV emission applications, and two for contribution applications. The IPTV document is close to completion, but waiting on the contribution document to see how the two documents align. The Contribution document has been split into two works – one for Piecewise constant MPEG2 streams and one for non-piecewise constant MPEG2 streams. The Piecewise Constant work has been completed and submitted to SMPTE. The Non-Piecewise Constant work is now underway, expecting completion by the October VSF meeting.

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

The HBRAV activity group is split into two working areas. Uncompressed and JPEG2000. Currently a draft uncompressed video encapsulation document and FEC document have been circulated for comments. The plan is to forward them to SMPTE in June.   JPEG2000 encapsulation in MPEG2TS/RTP is the current focus for the JPEG2000 group

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 recently added a new membership category as follows:
VSF Academic Member - Annual Dues: $150
This level includes researchers at a university, college, or similar institution in post-secondary education.

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 the access code please contact Bob Ruhl at bob.ruhl1@verizon.net.net.

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.