

PRESS RELEASE

PRESS RELEASEJanuary 05, 2022 || Page 1 | 2

Fraunhofer IIS licenses xHE-AAC audio codec software to Audible

Erlangen, Germany: Fraunhofer IIS, primary developer of the xHE-AAC audio codec, is pleased to announce the licensing of its xHE-AAC software implementations to Audible, Inc.

Audible is a leading creator and provider of premium audio storytelling, enriching the lives of millions of listeners every day. With its large selection of audiobooks, podcasts, and other forms of spoken-word content, Audible is an ideal user of the xHE-AAC audio codec.

xHE-AAC enables consumers to enjoy uninterrupted streaming with all types of content – such as movies, music, audiobooks, and podcasts. xHE-AAC offers maximum coding efficiency with a usable bit rate range that spans from 12 kbit/s to 500 kbit/s and above for stereo services. Combined with seamless bitrate adaptation using DASH and HLS, this helps video and audio streaming providers to overcome network bandwidth constraints and thereby facilitates an enhanced, more reliable consumer experience. Due to the built-in mandatory support of MPEG-D DRC volume and dynamic range control, xHE-AAC provides the best user experience on any device and in any listening environment.

xHE-AAC playback including mandatory MPEG-D DRC metadata is natively supported in billions of consumer playback platforms including Microsoft Windows 11 as well as in Google's, Amazon's and Apple's operating systems.

“Audible’s spoken word content offering and its members will benefit greatly from the use of xHE-AAC since the codec has been designed from the ground up to efficiently encode mixed speech and music content while providing the perfect dialog or commentary clarity thanks to the built-in loudness and dynamic range control”, says Marc Gayer, Head of Business Department & Deputy Division Director Audio and Media Technologies at Fraunhofer IIS.

Demonstrations of xHE-AAC streaming will be available at Fraunhofer’s CES booth at the Las Vegas Convention Center (LVCC, Central Hall, booth #15915).

Head of Corporate Communications

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The **Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft**, headquartered in Germany, is the world's leading applied research organization. Its research activities are conducted by 76 institutes and research units at locations throughout Germany. The Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft employs a staff of more than 30,000, who work with an annual research budget totaling more than 2.9 billion euros.

The **Fraunhofer Institute for Integrated Circuits IIS**, headquartered in Erlangen, Germany, conducts world-class research on microelectronic and IT system solutions and services. Today, it is the largest institute of the Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft. Research at Fraunhofer IIS revolves around two guiding topics:

For over 30 years, the institute's **Audio and Media Technologies division** has been shaping the globally deployed standards and technologies in the fields of audio and moving picture production. Starting with the creation of mp3 and continuing with the co-development of AAC and the Digital Cinema Initiative test plan, almost all consumer electronic devices, computers and mobile phones are equipped with systems and technologies from Erlangen today. Meanwhile, a new generation of best-in-class media technologies – such as MPEG-H Audio, xHE-AAC, EVS, LC3/LC3plus, Symphoria, Sonamic and upHear – is elevating the user experience to new heights. Always taking into account the demands of the market, Fraunhofer IIS develops technology that makes memorable moments.

More than 1100 employees conduct contract research for industry, the service sector and public authorities. Founded in 1985 in Erlangen, Fraunhofer IIS has now 14 locations in 10 cities: Erlangen (headquarters), Nuremberg, Fürth, Dresden, further in Ilmenau, Bamberg, Waischenfeld, Würzburg, Deggendorf and Passau. 75 percent of the budget of 191 million euros a year is financed by contract research projects. Approximately 25 percent is subsidized by federal and state funds as well as internal projects of the Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft. Detailed information on: www.iis.fraunhofer.de/en