

Press Release

Erlangen,
September 8, 2011

Fraunhofer IIS and Cube-Tec develop new digitalization procedure for video archives

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The Fraunhofer Institute for Integrated Circuits IIS in Erlangen and Cube-Tec International GmbH are jointly developing a new procedure for the high-quality and automated digitalization of analogue video cassettes. In this new procedure the complete signal processing path of tape machines is realized via computer software. This enables new forms of quality control, signal processing and the generation of technical meta data, which was previously not possible with the use of video recorders.

The recorded and processed digital data are subsequently available for data-based long-term archiving. The digitalization of the ½" formats such as Betacam and Betacam SP is currently paramount in the project work. Nevertheless, older formats such as U-Matic can also be digitalised using this procedure. All used standardized coding and data formats correspond to the requirements of digital archiving and the future use of the digital film material.

In addition to the processing software developed by Fraunhofer IIS high-performance-capable systems from Cube-Tec are also utilized: »QUADRIGA Video« for automated input control and the generation of meta data, the high-performance Dobbin rendering system for coding, restoration and file transfer as well as the Cube-Workflow for automated process control.

Dr. Siegfried Föbel, Head of Departement Moving Picture Technologies at Fraunhofer IIS says: »The approach – which

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has been filed as an application for a patent – is a promising new way to preserve the content of valuable video cassette stocks for posterity and will make it available for production once again.«

According to Jörg Houpert, Technical Director of Cube-Tec, Cube-Tec International GmbH can feature extensive experience with comparable systems and processes that have already been used for the digitalization and archiving of audio tapes for many years.

Find out more about this project on the Fraunhofer stand at the International Broadcast Convention IBC in Amsterdam, Hall 8 Stand B80, and at Cube-Tec International in Hall 8 Stand D03.

About Fraunhofer IIS

Founded in 1985 the Fraunhofer Institute for Integrated Circuits IIS in Erlangen, today with more than 750 staff members, ranks first among the Fraunhofer Institutes concerning headcount and revenues. As the main inventor of mp3 and co-inventor of the MPEG 4 AAC audio coding standard, Fraunhofer IIS has reached worldwide recognition. It provides research services on contract basis and technology licensing.

The research topics are: Audio and video source coding, multimedia realtime systems, digital radio broadcasting and digital cinema systems, integrated circuits and sensor systems, design automation, wireless, wired and optical networks, localization and navigation, imaging systems and nanofocus X-ray technology, high-speed cameras, medical sensor solutions and supply chain services.

The budget of more than 92 million Euro is mainly financed by projects from industry, the service sector and public authorities. Less than 25 percent of the budget is subsidized by federal and state funds.

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