



Press Release

Erlangen,
January 7, 2009

Fraunhofer IIS to Offer Complete AAC Software Suite for Via Licensing's New Patent-Licensing Program

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The Fraunhofer Institute for Integrated Circuits IIS, co-inventor and primary supplier of Advanced Audio Coding (AAC) technologies, today announced that its complete suite of advanced AAC software solutions is available to support the new AAC patent licensing program administered by Via Licensing Corporation. At Fraunhofer IIS, manufacturers gain access to optimized implementations of all technologies included in this new patent licensing program: AAC-LC, HE-AAC v1 and v2, AAC-LD and AAC-ELD. In addition, Fraunhofer offers an extended suite of conformance bitstreams, testing tools and a logo program, that enables its customers to make complete, interoperable products based on Fraunhofer's high-quality standards.

Fraunhofer Institute for Integrated Circuits IIS

Am Wolfsmantel 33
91058 Erlangen, Germany

Executive Director
Prof. Dr.-Ing. Heinz Gerhäuser
Director
Prof. Dr.-Ing. Günter Elst

Contact
Matthias Rose
Phone +49 9131 776-6175
Fax +49 9131 776-6099
matthias.rose@iis.fraunhofer.de

Public Relations
Marc Briele
Phone +49 9131 776-1630
Fax +49 9131 776-1649
presse@iis.fraunhofer.de
www.iis.fraunhofer.de

Fraunhofer USA, Inc.
Digital Media Technologies*
100 Century Court
Suite 504
San Jose, California 95112
www.dmt.fraunhofer.org

Contact
Jan Nordmann
Phone +1 408 573 9900
presse@dmf.fraunhofer.org

Fraunhofer's advanced software implementations are key components of the company's extensive range of products that are available in source or object code form for various platforms, microcontrollers and DSPs including products from Texas Instruments, ARM, MIPS and Analog Devices.

The addition of AAC-ELD and HE-AAC v2 to Via's AAC patent licensing program addresses the growth taking place in both IP-based communication and conferencing as well as high-speed multimedia download and streaming applications. Under the terms of Via's AAC patent licensing program, hardware and software manufacturers will, for the first time, be able to license multiple AAC technologies under a single, unified patent license. The updated program, for the first time, covers MPEG AAC-ELD (Enhanced Low Delay) and MPEG HE-AAC v2, which includes PS (Parametric Stereo) and SBR (Spectral Band Replication) patents.

* Fraunhofer USA Digital Media Technologies, a division of Fraunhofer USA, Inc., promotes and supports the products of Fraunhofer IIS in the U.S.



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“We’re very pleased to see that our customers now have easy access to a unified AAC patent licensing program offered by Via. In combination with Fraunhofer’s software implementation offerings, this program provides a powerful, attractive AAC solution to the different industries,” says Stefan Geyersberger, Head of IP Licensing at Fraunhofer IIS. “Our software implementations are highly optimized in terms of audio quality, computational complexity and memory consumption. That way,” he continues, “mobile devices such as smartphones, music players or reporter phones can benefit from the high audio quality, low latency and extended battery life.”

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Phone +49 9131 776-6175
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Fax +49 9131 776-1649
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www.dmt.fraunhofer.org

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According to Stefan Geyersberger, Via’s updated AAC patent licensing program offers a number of benefits to licensees. Key among these is the ability of customers to conveniently license the AAC family of technologies under a single-fee, unified license. In addition, the new program offers an updated, simplified reporting structure and the ability to aggregate volume across multiple AAC technologies and product categories. The new program also offers device-based pricing, annual pricing resets and per-product price caps for multi-channel devices.

About MPEG AAC-ELD

MPEG AAC-ELD is well suited for bi-directional communication applications, such as Internet telephony and video conferencing. It is a superset of the highly successful MPEG AAC-LD, the low delay version of AAC, which combines the full-bandwidth, superior quality of AAC with a low coding delay that is necessary for two-way audio communication. The AAC-ELD integrates SBR (Spectral Band Replication) technology with the feature set of the LD codec to deliver full audio bandwidth at data rates as low as 24 kbit/s per channel.

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About MPEG HE-AAC v2

MPEG HE-AAC and MPEG HE-AAC v2 are the low-bit-rate codecs in the AAC family. They are widely used within mobile applications such as multimedia download or mobile TV. HE-AAC delivers good-quality audio at bit rates from 48 to 64 kbit/s for stereo content. HE-AAC v2 achieves good stereo quality at bit rates ranging from 24 to 48 kbit/s.

Via Licensing Program

The new AAC license is available immediately from Via Licensing Corporation. For more information, visit the Via Licensing website at www.vialicensing.com.

About Fraunhofer IIS

Founded in 1985, the Fraunhofer Institute for Integrated Circuits IIS in Erlangen, Germany, today with 585 staff members, ranks first among the Fraunhofer Institutes concerning headcount and revenues. As the inventor of mp3 and co-inventor of the MPEG AAC audio coding standard, Fraunhofer IIS has reached worldwide recognition.

It provides research services on a 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 communications technology in transport and logistics. The budget of 72 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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