

# Press Release

## **Coding Technologies' MPEG-4 aacPlus multi-channel audio deployed in TANDBERG Television's next generation encoders for HDTV**

*MPEG-4 AVC and 5.1 surround sound on embedded platform based encoders available now*

**Amsterdam, IBC, September 6, 2006** — TANDBERG Television has added MPEG-4 aacPlus™ multi-channel audio compression to its latest line of professional HDTV encoding products for satellite, terrestrial and cable broadcasting as well as for IPTV. The TANDBERG EN5990 is the world's first professional HDTV encoder product combining Coding Technologies' highly efficient MPEG-4 aacPlus multi-channel audio codec with H.264/AVC based on a reliable, embedded hardware platform.

aacPlus is regarded as the most efficient audio compression technology available today, as proven in many third parties tests conducted by independent organisations such as the EBU (European Broadcasting Union), MPEG (Moving Pictures Expert Group), or the IRT (Institut für Rundfunktechnik). Specifically for 5.1 surround, aacPlus provides at 160 kbps the same audio quality as competing technologies at 384 kbps. This level of efficiency offers broadcasters and network operators a significant competitive edge compared to those deploying legacy compression technology.

In order to instantly reach the installed base of home theaters Coding Technologies offers in cooperation with its partner DTS a combined aacPlus/DTS transcoding solution for consumer set-top-boxes. The solution operates an aacPlus multi-channel decoder together with a high-quality DTS encoder which outputs digital multi-channel audio directly in the DTS surround sound format to an AV home receiver. The aacPlus/DTS audio solution allows digital broadcasters to deliver multi-channel audio in the highly efficient aacPlus format while simultaneously reaching the complete audience of 60 Million DTS enabled surround sound systems already installed in homes.

The availability of TANDBERG's EN5990 professional encoder together with HDTV single chip set-top-box decoder solutions from major suppliers such as STMicro and Broadcom enables broadcasters to deploy aacPlus for multi-channel audio, utilizing the transmission spectrum most efficiently throughout the whole signal chain from contribution, through distribution, to emission. The EN5990 accepts the Dolby input formats for transcoding to aacPlus, making the integration into the signal chain as easy as possible.

"The aacPlus is a great audio codec, and the aacPlus/DTS transcoding solution will put the multi-channel audio lid on HDTV broadcasting", says Roger Bolton, vice president of business development at TANDBERG Television. "Now that all the components of aacPlus are available it makes sense to include it in our latest generation of HD AVC encoders. We were really impressed by Coding Technologies' embedded implementation in terms of both, audio and software quality. This has enabled a smooth and painless rollout process."

"MPEG-4 AVC and aacPlus complement each other in an ideal way", adds Stefan Meltzer, vice president broadcasting/consumer electronics.

"TANDBERG is best known for top-notch products in the ultimate broadcast league, which is relying on a transparent and competitive market place. We believe this is best guaranteed by open standard technologies, which are now available for HDTV across the whole chain, and in best quality."

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### **Coding Technologies**

*Coding Technologies provides the best audio compression for mobile, broadcasting, and Internet. SBR™ (Spectral Band Replication) from Coding Technologies is a backward and forward compatible method to enhance the efficiency of any audio codec; putting the "PRO" in mp3PRO and the "Plus" in aacPlus. Parametric Stereo from Coding Technologies and Philips again significantly increases the efficiency of audio codecs for stereo signals at low bit rates. Products from Coding Technologies are fundamental enablers of open standards such as 3GPP, 3GPP2, MPEG, DVB, Digital Radio Mondiale, HD Radio, and the DVD Forum.*

*Coding Technologies is a privately held company with offices in Sweden, Germany, China, and the USA. Founded in 1997 in Stockholm, the company later merged with a spin-off of the renowned Fraunhofer Institute in Germany, the inventor of MP3. Coding Technologies' customers include America Online, EMP, iBiquity Digital, KDDI, O2, Nokia, Orange, RealNetworks, SK Telecom, Sprint, T-Mobile, Thomson, Texas Instruments, Vodafone, and XM Satellite Radio.*

For more information, visit [www.codingtechnologies.com](http://www.codingtechnologies.com).

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