Press Release

MPEG Surround to bring Surround Sound to Digital Broadcasting

Standardization finalized - PC SDKs for MPEG-4 aacPlus/MPEG Surround decoding available

Amsterdam, IBC, September 8, 2006 — Coding Technologies, the leading provider of audio compression technology for digital broadcasting, mobile music and the Internet, announced today the availability of software development kits (SDKs) for the brand new MPEG Surround technology combined with the world's most efficient audio codec MPEG-4 aacPlus. Operating on top of the aacPlus codec, MPEG Surround has the unique capability to combine stereo audio with a parameterized representation of the surround sound information. This unprecedented functionality enables digital broadcasting systems to offer different audio channel configurations from stereo to 5.1 surround and beyond in one single bit stream, without simulcasting.

MPEG has finalized the MPEG-D standard comprising the MPEG Surround technology in July this year. Only the formal approval by the ISO's national bodies remains in the standardizations process. No more than two month after the finalization, Coding Technologies offers SDKs to build decoders for PC platforms, enabling its customers to get first hand on this revolutionary development.

Moreover, MPEG Surround can be combined with virtually any audio codec to upgrade already existing broadcast systems such as DVB-T to surround sound. The world's first live transmission of MPEG Layer-2 with MPEG Surround over DVB-T was demonstrated as a proof of concept at the German Medientage exhibition in Munich in 2005. A standard DVB-T set-top-box was used to play back the stereo portion of the Layer-2 MPEG Surround signal, whereas a new MPEG Surround enabled set-top-box played back the full 5.1 surround audio. Now that the open MPEG-D standard is finalized, interested parties can have immediate access to the technology for evaluation.

"Mainly thanks to the success of the DVD, surround sound is clearly moving mainstream in homes today, and consumers are more and more expecting surround also for broadcasting," says Martin Dietz, CEO and President of Coding Technologies. "No modern broadcast system can afford to ignore this trend, and MPEG Surround has the unique capability to support both, multi-channel and stereo receivers with a single bitstream. This creates totally new use cases and business opportunities."

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.

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