

News Alert

MPEG Surround Becomes International Standard

New multi-channel audio compression technique ready for deployment

Barcelona, 3GSM World Congress, 12th of February, 2007 — Agere Systems (NYSE: AGR), Coding Technologies, Fraunhofer Institute for Integrated Circuits IIS and Philips Applied Technologies announced today that MPEG (Moving Pictures Expert Group) has finalised the standardizations process of the MPEG Surround technique at the 79th MPEG meeting in Marrakech, Morocco. Developed by the four parties, MPEG Surround is now an International Standard.

MPEG Surround is a brand new, feature-rich open standard compression technique for multi-channel audio signals. Operating on top of any core audio codec such as AAC, HE-AAC and MPEG-1 Layer II, the system provides an unrivalled set of features including full backward compatibility to stereo equipment and a wide scalability in terms of bit rate used for describing the surround sound image. In combination with HE-AAC, MPEG Surround can carry a five or seven channel surround program at a total bit rate of 64 kb/s or less.

The compatibility enables an easy upgrade path for existing stereo broadcasting and other media services to a more desirable surround sound listening experience. Specifically for portable applications, MPEG Surround offers a binaural mode, providing spatial rendering and reproduction of multi-channel audio on stereo headphones.

All parties interested in capitalizing on the benefits of MPEG Surround can obtain the MPEG-D standard document IS 23003-1 describing the MPEG Surround technology. The MPEG Surround logo is available through the four developing parties.

MPEG Surround will be demonstrated at the 3GSM World Congress in Barcelona by Coding Technologies in hall 2.1, stand B37, and by Fraunhofer IIS in hall 2, stand A126, from 12th to 15th of February.



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Agere Systems

Agere Systems is a global leader in semiconductors and software solutions for storage, mobility and networking markets. The company's products enable a broad range of services and capabilities, from cell phones, PCs and hard disk drives to the world's most sophisticated wireless and wire line networks. Agere's customers include top manufacturers of consumer electronics and communications and computing equipment. Agere works to transform the performance of networks and consumer electronics by integrating systems knowledge and leading technology that enable people to stay connected -- perfecting the connected lifestyle.

For more information, visit www.agere.com

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.



Fraunhofer IIS

Founded in 1985 the Fraunhofer Institute for Integrated Circuits IIS in Erlangen, today with 480 staff members, ranks first among the Fraunhofer Institutes concerning headcount and revenues. With the development of the audio coding method MP3, 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 communications technology in transport and logistics.

The budget of 58 million Euro is mainly financed by projects from industry, the service sector and public authorities. Less than 20 percent of the budget is subsidized by federal and state funds.

Royal Philips Electronics

Royal Philips Electronics of the Netherlands (NYSE: PHG, AEX: PHI) is a global leader in healthcare, lifestyle and technology, delivering products, services and solutions through the brand promise of "sense and simplicity". Headquartered in the Netherlands, Philips employs approximately 126,000 employees in more than 60 countries worldwide. With sales of EUR 30.4 billion in 2005, the company is a market leader in medical diagnostic imaging and patient monitoring systems, energy efficient lighting solutions, personal care and home appliances, as well as consumer electronics. News from Philips is located at <http://www.philips.com/newscenter>.

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