



**Video Services Forum, Inc.
News Letter**

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This is the ninth issue of Video Services Forum (VSF) News Letter. The VSF feels that it is important to keep you informed about what is going on within the VSF since the VSF is **your** organization. As we realize that your time is valuable, we have kept this News Letter deliberately brief.

VSF Directors and Officers:

During the 1Q of every year, VSF Board of Directors elections are held at the annual member meeting. The meeting took place on February 13, 2008 in Houston, Texas during VidTrans08. Richard Friedel, Steve Storozum, Brian Wilson and Brendan Smith ran unopposed for two year terms. Paul Atwell, Pierre Costa, John Dale, and Mary-Luc Champel continue to serve the remainder of their two year terms.

Director	Company	Term Expires
Paul Atwell	ION Media Networks	2009
Pierre Costa	AT&T	2009
John Dale	Media Links	2009
Mary-Luc Champel	Thomson Grass Valley	2009
Richard Friedel	Fox Broadcasting	2010
Brendan Smith	Harris Broadcast	2010
Steve Storozum	Level 3 Communications	2010
Brian Wilson	Verizon	2010

The following VSF Officers continue to serve out the remainder of their two-year terms, which run through February 2009:

President	Derek Smith	Level 3 Communications	2009
Vice President	Carl Ostrom	System Resource	2009
Secretary/Treasurer	Roger Hatcher	State of Georgia	2009

Administrative and Technical Staff:

Brad Gilmer – Gilmer and Associates, VSF Executive Director

Barbara Main – VSF Administration

Bob Ruhl – VSF Operations Manager

VSF Current Member List:

- Altera Corporation
- AmericaFree.TV
- Analog Devices, Inc.
- Artel Video Systems
- AT&T
- BRIDGETECH A/S
- British Telecommunications
- CBC/Radio Canada
- Comtech EF Data
- Digital Fountain
- Dimetis GmbH
- DIRECTV
- DVBLink
- Evertz
- Fox Broadcasting
- Genesis Networks
- Georgia Technology Authority
- Harmonic, Inc.
- Harris Broadcast Communications
- IneoQuest Technologies
- ION Media Networks, Inc.
- Iowa Public Television
- IPITEK
- Kontrol Media Corp.
- Level 3 Communications
- Media Links, Inc.
- MEDIATVCOM
- Merrill Weiss Group
- Mixed Signals
- Motorola, Inc.
- Net Insight
- NetworkFX Communications
- Pleora Technologies, Inc.
- Qvidium Technologies, Inc.
- Scientific-Atlanta, A Cisco Company

- Signiant
- Spirent Communications
- Sunrise Telecom
- Symmetricom
- System Resource Consulting
- Telstra Corporation Limited
- T-VIPS
- TANDBERG Television
- Telecom Product Consulting
- Thomson Grass Valley
- Turner Broadcasting
- Verizon
- Video Products Group/ Network Electronics ASA
- Xlinix

Meetings and Conferences:

The **SMPTE and VSF 2008 Joint Conference and Exhibition** was held February 10 - 13, 2008 in Houston, Texas at the InterContinental Houston Hotel. The VSF and the SMPTE worked together to stage their fourth combined conference and exhibition. There were approximately 230 people in attendance and 5 sponsors and 29 exhibitors. It was a successful conference by all measures but in 2009, the VSF will stage a separate VidTrans09 Conference since SMPTE has decided to hold a separate conference in Europe in the May timeframe.

The **May 2008 VSF Meeting Series** will be held **May 13 & 14 in Atlanta, Georgia and will be hosted by Turner Broadcasting.** There will be separate CoP3 VBR and HBRAV Activity Group meetings held during this meeting series. For additional meeting information, preferred hotel and on-line registration please visit: **<http://www.videoservicesforum.org/Meetings/index.htm>**.

The **October 2008 VSF Meeting Series** will be held **October 6 - 7 in Austin, Texas and hosted by AT&T Laboratories.** Additional information and call for papers will be posted at the Video Services Forum website and through e-mail announcements.

VSF VidTrans09 Conference and exhibition will be held **February 10, 2009 through February 12, 2009 at the Marriott Hotel, Marina Del Rey, California.** More details on the conference will be provided at the Video Services Forum website and through e-mail announcements.

VSF Activity Groups:

VSF Activity Groups (AGs) supply input and expertise to various industry standards bodies on behalf of the VSF. These are some of the topics that VSF Activity Groups are actively addressing:

The **WAN Video IP Activity Group** is investigating high quality/contribution video over IP infrastructure current or draft standard documents with the objective of leveraging the VSF knowledge base and making appropriate recommendations, modifications or developing new documents.

Co-Chairs: Pierre Costa, AT&T and John Dale III, Media Links, Inc.

The **CoP3 Standardization Activity Sub-group** has completed its work on sponsoring the standardization of MPEG-2 over IP with FEC. The VSF worked closely with SMPTE to produce the two-part SMPTE standard known as SMPTE 2022-2007. This document has two parts. The first part, SMPTE 2022-1 defines a standard implementation of a FEC scheme to provide a predictable packet recovery process for interoperability in a multi-vendor environment. The second part, SMPTE 2022-2, defines a specific mapping of MPEG2 Transport Streams into RTP and subsequently on to IP networks. This can be used with or without FEC.

Chair: Carl Ostrom, System Resource

CoP3 VBR Activity Sub-group: The CoP3 (2002-1 SMPTE) specification assumes CBR video streams. In practice many encoded video streams (MPEG-2, MPEG-4 AVC, VC-1) have variable bit-rate. The FEC receiver assuming a CBR stream may pace the recovered video stream to the decoder with unacceptable jitter. The purpose of the VBR AG is to determine adaptations that are required to CoP3 or the CBR stream model in order to ensure optimal decoder performance after the FEC receiver output.

The VSF committee on Variable Bit Rate MPEG video over IP has begun work on defining an interoperable transport and

FEC process for standardization. The committee is comprised of a number of encoder and decoder manufacturers, as well as users. The committee has a similar makeup to the CoP3 CBR committee. The goal is to define a VBR FEC scheme that can accommodate both the robustness and efficient throughput required for contribution applications as well as the bit rate flexibility and low overhead necessary for distribution applications. While the work will not be dependent on the SMPTE 2022 standard (CoP3 CBR), it will rely heavily on the foundations of that work. An initial draft was presented at the spring 2007 meeting of the VSF.

The committee defined two proposals based on that draft. One proposal requires the insertion of "Time Stamps" for contribution applications, the other proposal for IPTV delivery to home set top boxes does not require times stamps.

The committee will focus on the latter version without time stamps as the initial work. A draft proposal of this process will be presented at the Fall VSF meeting.

Chair: Carl Ostrom, System Resource

The **High Bit Rate Audio Video over IP (HBRAV- IP) Transport and FEC Committee** will create and shepherd a standard for an encapsulation and FEC process for high bit rate video/audio services up to 3Gbs. This is to incorporate both uncompressed and lightly compressed video and audio formats.

1. Define encapsulation process for SMPTE 259M/C, SMPTE 292, SMPTE 305M, JPEG2000, MPEG2 TS.
2. Define FEC process for low latency high bit rate content agnostic CBR RTP datagrams
3. Define FEC process for low latency high bite rate VBR RTP datagrams.

Co-Chairs: Pierre Costa, AT&T and Ryan Korte, Level 3 Communications

To learn more about these Activity Groups please visit:
<http://www.videoservicesforum.org/about/index.htm>.

Other News:

We have made additional updates to the VSF website so please check them out at <http://www.videoservicesforum.org> when you have a chance.

We recently changed the VSF Members-only single access code for VSF Meetings and VidTrans conference notes located in the archive section. If you are a VSF Member and have not received these access codes please contact Bob Ruhl.

News Letters and Press Releases are also available on-line, on the VSF website home page, to all without need for access codes.

If you have any comments or suggestions on the VSF website and/or News Letter please send them to Bob Ruhl at bob.ruhl@comcast.net.

Well, that's it for now. If there is any topic that you would like to see covered in the next issue of the News Letter, please contact Bob Ruhl.