

PRESS RELEASE

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Google extends license agreement for AAC codec range with Fraunhofer IIS

Erlangen, Germany: Fraunhofer IIS, primary developer of the xHE-AAC audio codec, is pleased to announce the extension of its AAC family software license agreement with Google.

Fraunhofer's AAC encoder software that supports the AAC-LC, HE-AAC, and xHE-AAC flavors of the open international standard is used by Google to deliver billions of hours of content to consumers worldwide. By extending this fruitful collaboration into the future, users will continue to enjoy uninterrupted streaming with all types of content – such as movies, music, audiobooks, and podcasts.

The latest version of the AAC family, xHE-AAC, offers maximum coding efficiency with a usable bit rate range that spans from 12 kbit/s to 500 kbit/s and above for stereo services. This helps overcome audio bandwidth constraints and thereby facilitates an enhanced, more reliable consumer experience. Such efficiency is particularly crucial in emerging markets where 2G/3G networks still exist in significant numbers and wherever 4G/5G networks are congested. Audio bandwidth saved due to the increased coding efficiency can be used to improve the video quality. Encoder built-in MPEG-D DRC dynamic range control and loudness metadata provide a consistent loudness level and optimal dynamic range for any playback device and environment.

“We greatly value our close collaboration with the YouTube team,” says Marc Gayer, Head of Business Department & Deputy Division Director Audio and Media Technologies at Fraunhofer IIS. “We are looking forward to continuing this success story and helping even further improve the quality and user experience of the service.”

Head of Corporate Communications

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The **Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft**, headquartered in Germany, is the world's leading applied research organization. Its research activities are conducted by 76 institutes and research units at locations throughout Germany. The Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft employs a staff of more than 30,000, who work with an annual research budget totaling more than 2.9 billion euros.

The **Fraunhofer Institute for Integrated Circuits IIS**, headquartered in Erlangen, Germany, conducts world-class research on microelectronic and IT system solutions and services. Today, it is the largest institute of the Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft. Research at Fraunhofer IIS revolves around two guiding topics:

For over 30 years, the institute's **Audio and Media Technologies division** has been shaping the globally deployed standards and technologies in the fields of audio and moving picture production. Starting with the creation of mp3 and continuing with the co-development of AAC and the Digital Cinema Initiative test plan, almost all consumer electronic devices, computers and mobile phones are equipped with systems and technologies from Erlangen today. Meanwhile, a new generation of best-in-class media technologies – such as MPEG-H Audio, xHE-AAC, EVS, LC3/LC3plus, Symphoria, Sonamic and upHear – is elevating the user experience to new heights. Always taking into account the demands of the market, Fraunhofer IIS develops technology that makes memorable moments.

More than 1170 employees conduct contract research for industry, the service sector and public authorities. Founded in 1985 in Erlangen, Fraunhofer IIS now has locations in 11 cities: Erlangen (headquarters), Nürnberg, Fürth and Dresden, as well as Bamberg, Deggendorf, Ilmenau, München, Passau, Waischenfeld and Würzburg. 72 percent of the budget of 189,7 million euros a year is financed by contract research projects. Institutional funding from the Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft covers 28 percent of the budget. Detailed information on: www.iis.fraunhofer.de/en