

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

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This is the fifth 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 Officers & Board Members:

During the 1Q of every year, VSF Board of Directors elections are held at the annual member meeting. The meeting took place on February 1, 2006 in Hollywood, California during VidTrans06. Kerry Wheelles and Brian Wilson ran unopposed and were elected to two year terms as indicated below:

Director	Company	Term Expires
Pierre Costa	SBC Communications	2007
John Dale	Media Links	2007
Richard Friedel	Fox Broadcasting	2007
John Mailhot	Aastra Digital Video	2007
Roger Hatcher	State of Georgia	2007
Steve Storzum	Vxvx	2006
Kerry Wheelles	Harris Broadcast	2008
Brian Wilson	Verizon	2008

The following VSF Officers continue to serve two-year terms, which run through February 2007:

President	Derek Smith	Vyvx
Vice President	Carl Ostrom	System Resource
Secretary/Treasurer	Jeff Carpenter	Artel Video Systems

Administrative and Technical Staff:

Brad Gilmer – Gilmer and Associates, VSF Executive Director
Barbara Main – Assistant Director
Bob Ruhl – VSF Operations Manager

VSF Current Member List (37 Current):

A.R.G ElectroDesign
Aastra Digital Video
Artel Video Systems
Bell Canada
Bridge Tech
CBC/Radio-Canada
Digital Fountain
DirecTV
DVBLink, Inc.
Fox Broadcasting
Georgia Technology Authority
Harmonic, Inc.
Harris Broadcast Communications Division
IneoQuest Technologies, Inc.
Ipitek
Juniper Networks
Merrill Weiss Group
MESoft, Inc.
Media Links, Inc.
Modulus Video
Path 1 Network Technologies
Pathfire, Inc.
Paxson Communications
Renovo Software
SBC Communications
Scientific Atlanta
Spirent Communications
System Resource, Carl Ostrom, Principal
TANDBERG Television
Telecom Product Consulting, Wes Simpson, Principal
Thomson Grass Valley
Tut Systems
T-VIPS
UPC Technology
Verizon Communications
Video Products Group
Vyvx

Meetings and Conferences:

The **VidTrans06** annual conference and exhibit was held January 29, 2006 through Wednesday, February 1, 2006 in Hollywood, CA. The VSF and the Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers (SMPTE) worked together to stage the second combined conference and exhibition. There were approximately 325 people in attendance, about the same as in VidTrans05. There were 10 sponsors and 26 exhibitors. It was a very successful conference and the VSF is currently working with SMPTE to plan a joint Conference in 2007.

The Professional Real Time Video/Audio over IP Network Infrastructure Working Group, planned and conducted a successful demonstration in the Exhibit area illustrating two things; 1) the transport of high quality real time video over a packet network with deterministic packet loss, and 2) interoperability between multiple vendors using independent implementations of the Pro-MPEG Forum Code of Practice 3 Revision 2 (COP3R2).

During the demonstration, each participating company generated an IP multicast consisting of a single 20Mb video stream with predetermined FEC/Interleaving. Prior to being distributed to all participants, the multicast streams were fed into an IneoQuest Technologies device which introduced deterministic errors. The errored streams were then distributed over the network to all other participants. This was done to demonstrate the recovery capabilities of the Forward Error Correction (FEC) system described in COP3R2.

The following companies participated in the demonstration; Aastra Digital Video, BT, Path1, Qvidium, Sencore, TANDBERG Television, Thomson Grass Valley, Tut Systems, and T-VIPS. Fox Digital Television provided equipment and materials as needed to create the network test-bed.

The October 2005 **VSF Meeting Series** was held May 25, 26 and 27 (1/2 day) in Arlington, Virginia and was hosted by Verizon Communications. This meeting was heavily attended with over 60 people in attendance. A tour of the Verizon AVOC took place on Tuesday afternoon with most attendees taking part. For additional information on the meeting, agenda, and presentations please visit:

<http://www.videoservicesforum.org/Meetings/index.htm>.

The June 2006 **VSF Meeting Series** will be held June 6, 7, 8 (1/2 day) in Toronto, Canada, and will be hosted by Bell Canada, Aastra, CBC-Radio-Canada and Harris Broadcasting and take place at the Bell Canada Special Facilities Conference Room, Bell Trinity Square, 483 Bay Street. For additional information on the meeting location, preliminary agenda, preferred hotel and registration please visit:

<http://www.videoservicesforum.org/Meetings/index.htm>

The **VidTrans07 Annual Conference** and exhibition will be held January 28, 2007 through January 31, 2007 in Florida. As soon as we have made a site selection more details on the joint conference will be provided at videoservicesforum.org and smpte.org sites 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.

Professional Real Time Video/Audio Over IP Network Infrastructure Activity Group – Discussing key issues of relevance to transporting real-time video signals across IP-based networks.

Co-Chairs: Pierre Costa, SBC and John Dale III, Media-Links

COP-3 Group is sub group specifically covering the standardization of Pro-MPEG CoP#3 through SMPTE.

Co-Chairs: Carl Ostrom, System Resource and Peter Elmer, British Telecom

Test and Measurements Activity Group - goal is to Identify and describe metrics required to accurately characterize packet-based network performance for streaming video transport over IP.

Chair: Michael Bany, DVBLink, Inc.

To learn more about these AGs please visit:

<http://www.videoservicesforum.org/about/index.htm>.

Other News:

1] The VSF is working with the Pro-MPEG Forum to move their Code of Practice 3 (COP3) document through standardization. COP3 addresses technical issues which are within the domain of the Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers (SMPTE). Advancing COP3 through SMPTE will involve re-formatting the COP3 document into SMPTE-accepted form. The VSF has invited the Pro-MPEG Forum members to jointly work with the VSF towards that goal.

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 at bob.ruhl@comcast.net.