

Source: ARIB Codec WG

Title: Proposal for Baseline version and schedule

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INTRODUCTION

From ARIB point of view, it is important that the work in Working Group 4 proceeds quickly with clear milestones. It would be beneficial if Working Group 4 could discuss and agree on work packages and schedules already in the 1st meeting. This paper introduces the work items of the ARIB Codec WG to be used here as a discussion basis for work packages and makes a proposal to prepare a Baseline specification version by April 1999.

WORK ITEMS IN ARIB CODEC WG

Work in ARIB Codec WG can be categorised into three different items, namely (1). Mandatory Speech Codec for Telephony Service, (2). Codecs for other speech and audio related services and (3). Codecs and Systems for the Video Multimedia Services. Below provides some detailed information about the categories and the approach taken in ARIB in the standardisation work. The information here is provided as the discussion basis for the work packages for this Working Group 4.

1. Mandatory Speech Codec for Telephony Service

The purpose of this work in ARIB is to select one mandatory speech codec for Telephony Service. This codec must be supported in terminals and in the network transcoder. In order to do the selection according to the tight time schedules, ARIB Codec WG chose to study only already standardised speech codecs and codecs which will be standardised in time for the final selection.

2. Codecs for other speech and audio related services

A list of work items for this category is given below. The text in the parenthesis provides the tentative standardisation classification in the final standard (Mandatory/Optional/Recommended^{*1}). The final standardisation schedule and the need for each specific codec to be included in the specifications will be assessed separately and it will depend on the specified services and system requirements.

- optional codec(s) for Telephony Service (Optional)
- codec(s) for High Quality Speech Service (Optional or Recommended)
- codec(s) for High Quality Audio Service (Recommended)
- codec(s) for Hi-Fi audio Broadcasting Service (Recommended)

^{*1} Recommended : Recommended Specification means the specification to which equipment is recommended to be designed as a preferred approach in order for the service to be maintained to the intended quality and connectivity. The operators and equipment manufactures may choose other specifications for the same service at their discretion.

3. Codecs and Systems for the Video Multimedia Services

The purpose of this work in ARIB is to include to the specification description for video multimedia codec systems applicable to bi-directional real-time video services. The standardisation classification is set as Recommended, i.e. the purpose is to provide information about applicable systems within the use of IMT-2000.

BASELINE VERSION

Japan has the intention to start the commercial service of IMT-2000 around April year 2001. For this it is essential to have the first version of the specifications to be completed by April 1999, and therefore the targeted schedule in ARIB has been to finalise the Version 1.0 of the standard in April this year. Now that the preparation of the specifications has been agreed to be done in 3GPP, it is proposed that a Baseline version of the specification is prepared and agreed by April 1999. This has been selected as the approach for 3GPP Radio Access Network and Core Network work, thus it is important to have same approach also in the codec work.

The Baseline version should include at least the selection of the codec for Mandatory Speech Telephony Service. Because of the tight schedules, the same approach as used in the ARIB work, i.e. selection from among existing standards, is believed to be to best solution for the work method.

CONCLUSIONS

In conclusion we propose that the three work items; (1), (2) and (3) should be included within the work items of this TSG-System Aspects WG4 (Codec) meeting and that a Baseline version of the specification is prepared and agreed by April 1999. This Baseline version should include at least the description of the codec for Mandatory Speech Telephony Service.