**Source: Fraunhofer IIS, VoiceAge Corporation**

**Title: Proposed Timeline for IVAS Characterization Testing**

**Document for: Discussion and Agreement**

**Agenda Item: 7.5**

# Introduction

The IVAS test plan for characterization phase [1] is still lacking a defined detailed timeline for collecting and processing the audio samples for subjective testing. This document proposes a timeline for discussion and agreement. The proposal for the timeline has been written given the following constraints and consideration:

* The legal framework has been signed and the hosting server has been made available by July 14th – thus, this is the earliest date for starting the material collection
* The characterization listening test are scheduled to start on September 22nd – thus, by this date all collected material has to be processed
* A sufficient amount of time has to be considered for collecting and evaluating the material. Although it would certainly be advantageous if the deadline for the collection of material could be advanced, the source sees this as unrealistic, given the ongoing SA4#133-e meeting and vacation period
* Verification and selection of sound material by MC now falls into August with some potential buffer early September – it has to be seen whether this is a realistic assumption given the overlap with vacation period in several countries
* A codec pre-release and final release will be made available by the IVAS public collaboration in time for processing the samples

# Proposed Next Steps

The following changes are proposed to Annex E, Table E.1 (Testing Timeline) of [1]:

**Table E.1: Testing Timeline**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Date** | **Task** | **Active Parties** |
|  | Feb 17-21, 2025 | **3GPP SA4 #131** |  |
|  | April 7–11, 2025 | **3GPP SA4 #131-bis-e** |  |
|  | May 19–23, 2025 | **3GPP SA4 #132**  Finalization of IVAS characterization permanent documents, including:   * IVAS-7b Processing Plan for Characterization Phase * IVAS-8b Test Plan for Characterization Phase |  |
|  | June 10–13, 2025 | **3GPP SA #108** |  |
|  | July 14, 2025 | • Proper legal framework exists (signed) among proponent companies (includes host lab, cross-check lab), listening labs, GAL to cover use of executables, source codes, audio test material (unprocessed and processed), and test results (raw voting data).  • Make hosting servers for material collection available. |  |
|  | July 21–25, 2025 | **3GPP SA4 #133-e**  Verification of IVAS fixed-point C-code for TS 26.251 having   * Same functionalities and equivalent performance as the floating-point C-code in TS 26.258. * Full interoperability with floating-point C-code in TS 26.258. * Comparable complexity as the floating-point C-code in TS 26.258.   Agreement on TS 26.251 (IVAS fixed-point C-code) based on the verification reports.  Decision on launching characterization tests |  |
|  | Aug 1, 2025 | Deadline for uploading all required material  Note: Update triggered by verification of material is still allowed. | LLs, MC |
|  | Aug 1, 2025, 16:00 CEST | Pre-release: Submission of IVAS codec executables (floating-point + fixed-point code) for Characterization testing. | IVAS Public Collaboration |
|  | Aug 29, 2025 | * MC verified that all the unprocessed material and parameters for artificially created stereo/immersive sound material meet the requirements defined by SA4, and identified missing material and parameters.   Note: Feedback on the material should be provided as early as possible, to allow for updates of the material. | MC |
|  | Sept 5, 2025 | Deadline for uploading updated material | LLs, MC |
|  | Sept 8, 2025 | Provide dry-run material to listening labs, using the pre-release executables. | HL |
|  | Sept 12, 2025,  16:00 CEST | Final release: Submission of IVAS codec executables (floating-point + fixed-point code) for Characterization testing. | IVAS Public Collaboration |
|  | Sept 12, 2025 | * MC verified that all the unprocessed updated material and parameters for artificially created stereo/immersive sound material meet the requirements defined by SA4. * MC shall choose the parameters and sound materials for all experiments. | MC |
|  | Sept 15, 2025 | * Service contract between ETSI MCC and LLs and GAL is signed. * Start of processing audio samples to be delivered to LLs. |  |
|  | Sept 16–19, 2025 | **3GPP SA #109** |  |
|  | Sept 19, 2025 | Delivery of processed audio samples to LLs | HL |
|  | Sept 22 – Oct 31, 2025 | Characterization listening tests |  |
|  | Nov 3-11, 2025 | Global analysis |  |
|  | Nov 11, 2025 | Contribution deadline for SA4 #134 |  |
|  | November 17–21, 2025 | **3GPP SA4 #134**  Characterization test results available for analysis  Agreement on characterization test results to be incorporated into TR 26.997 |  |
|  | December 9-12, 2025 | **3GPP SA #110**  CR to TR 26.997 on IVAS Codec characterization, for approval |  |
|  |  |  |  |

# Conclusion

It is proposed to agree on the timeline as outlined in clause 2 of this Tdoc and incorporate it into Annex E of IVAS-8b.

**References**

1. [S4aA250068](https://www.3gpp.org/ftp/TSG_SA/WG4_CODEC/3GPP_SA4_AHOC_MTGs/SA4_Audio/Docs/S4aA250068.zip) - IVAS Permanent Document IVAS-8b: Test Plan for Characterization Phase, Version v.0.8.0