

FRAUNHOFER INSTITUTE FOR INTEGRATED CIRCUITS IIS

## PRESS RELEASE

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PRESS RELEASE

September 10, 2015 || Page 1 | 3

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### **Fraunhofer IIS and Modulation Index, LLC to Present the World's First xHE-AAC Enabled Live Streaming Encoder**

*Demonstrations at IBC will showcase the unique features of xHE-AAC for speech and music transmission*

**Erlangen, Germany/Amsterdam, NL, September 10, 2015 – IBC, hall 8, Booth B80: Fraunhofer IIS, the major contributor behind the development of mp3 and AAC, together with Modulation Index, LLC will present the first xHE-AAC enabled streaming encoder "StreamS Live" at IBC (Sept 11-15, Amsterdam). The live demonstration features original programming provided by public radio station WAMU and Classic Rock station "The Sound."**

Designed for speech and music transmission at only 16kbit/s for stereo, xHE-AAC is the low bit rate extension of the AAC audio codec, the worldwide industry standard for streaming, broadcast and music distribution. The coding efficiency of xHE-AAC enables streaming services to operate at lower data rates, resulting in major benefits for consumers and program providers. The listening experience especially for users of mobile devices gets improved by reducing buffering times and an increased service reliability, while the lower bandwidth requirements reduce CDN costs for program providers and prevent data plan overflows at the consumer end.

"The mp3 format enabled the first Internet music services, the HE-AAC codec brought Internet radio to billions of mobile users. We are excited that Internet streaming services enabled by xHE-AAC will now even further improve the listening experience and help bring radio programs for the first time to billions of mobile users in emerging markets that still to a large extent, rely on 2G networks," said Bernhard Grill, head of the Audio & Multimedia division and deputy director, Fraunhofer IIS.

The StreamS Live Encoder is the first professional streaming encoder supporting xHE-AAC.

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**PRESS RELEASE**

September 10, 2015 || Page 2 | 3

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“We are taking a new approach to live streaming with the application of Fraunhofer’s xHE-AAC codec enabling the StreamS Live Encoder. xHE-AAC represents the next step in audio codec technology. The StreamS Live Encoder will allow any web server on any platform to be used to deliver high quality sound for music and speech thanks to xHE-AAC,” said Greg Ogonowski, President at Modulation Index.

In addition to streaming applications, xHE-AAC is the standard codec for Digital Radio Mondiale DRM and therefore widely available in DRM receivers and professional broadcast equipment.

A patent pool for xHE-AAC is under development by Via Licensing in conjunction with a group of essential patent holders. The xHE-AAC patent license is expected to be available in the first quarter of 2016.



**The StreamS Live Encoder is the first professional streaming encoder supporting xHE-AAC.**

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**About Fraunhofer**

When it comes to innovative audio technologies for the rapidly evolving media world, Fraunhofer IIS stands alone. For more than 25 years, digital audio technology has been the principal focus of the Audio and Multimedia division of the Fraunhofer Institute for Integrated Circuits IIS. From the creation of mp3 and the co-development of AAC to the future of audio entertainment for broadcast, Fraunhofer IIS brings innovations in sound to reality.

Today, technologies such as Fraunhofer Cingo for virtual surround sound, Fraunhofer Symphoria for automotive 3D audio, AAC-ELD and EVS for telephone calls with CD-like audio quality, and MPEG-H Audio that allows television viewers to adjust dialogue volume to suit their personal preferences are among the division's most compelling new developments.

Fraunhofer IIS technologies enable more than 8 billion devices worldwide. The audio codec software and application-specific customizations are licensed to more than 1,000 companies. The division's mp3 and AAC audio codecs are now ubiquitous in mobile multimedia systems.

Fraunhofer IIS is based in Erlangen, Germany and is a division of Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft. With nearly 24,000 employees worldwide, Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft is comprised of 66 institutes and research units making it Europe's largest application-oriented research organization.

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