

PRESS RELEASE

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Fraunhofer IIS Brings Full-HD Voice Quality to Telepresence Systems in Social Networks

Fraunhofer IIS contributes to EU Project Vconnect to enhance video conferencing experience

ERLANGEN, Germany (September 5, 2013) – The audio experts from Fraunhofer IIS are contributing advanced audio communication technologies to EU project Vconnect to be included in web-based telepresence systems for social networks. The audio technology provided by Fraunhofer IIS produces CD-like audio quality for video conferencing, delivering the conversation to sound as if it is taking place in the same room.

In July, the first real-time application of Vconnect was successfully integrated and tested in SAPO Campus, which is a social network for educational institutions and developed by Portugal Telecom. This October, selected SAPO Campus users will participate in a controlled experiment to study the use of the new feature. In a subsequent trial in 2014, Vconnect will be made available to various partner schools for a wider test over a public connection.

“The education sector is changing very rapidly, and tools such as SAPO Campus are incredibly valuable in evolving the classroom,” stated Harald Popp, head of the Audio & Multimedia Business department. “Adding Full-HD Voice technology enhances the learning experience and fosters collaboration among teachers, students and peers,” he added.

For Vconnect, Fraunhofer IIS developed a browser plug-in that integrates all necessary components for a high quality telepresence experience with Full-HD Voice quality. The plug-in includes tools for the reliable transmission of the audio signals and the audio codec AAC-ELD, which is the preferred codec in professional video conferencing systems and video chat applications such as Apple’s FaceTime. The audio quality of the Vconnect

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system will fulfill the highest quality standards thanks to the audio communication technology developed by Fraunhofer.

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Fraunhofer will present the current status of the Vconnect project at the IFA international consumer electronics and home appliances trade show in Berlin (Hall 11.1, Booth 12) September 6-11, 2013.

About Vconnect:

Vconnect is a "Specific Targeted Research Project" (STREP) of the ICT (Information and Communications Technologies) Work Program under the European Community's 7th Framework Program (FP7). It addresses objective 1.5 ("Networked Media") under challenge 1 ("Pervasive and Trusted Network and Service Infrastructures").

The project is partly funded by the European Commission. Its overall budget is about 5.5 million euro.

Webpage: www.vconnect-project.eu
YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/user/Vconnect>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/vconnect>
Twitter: <https://twitter.com/vconnect>

About Fraunhofer

The Audio and Multimedia division of Fraunhofer Institute for Integrated Circuits IIS, based in Erlangen, Germany, has been working in compressed audio technology for more than 25 years and remains a leading innovator of technologies for cutting-edge multimedia systems. Fraunhofer IIS is universally credited with the development of mp3 and co-development of the AAC (Advanced Audio Coding) as well as technologies for the media world of tomorrow, including Fraunhofer Cingo for virtual surround, Fraunhofer Symphoria for automotive 3D audio, AAC-ELD for telephone calls with CD-like audio quality, and Dialog Enhancement to allow TV viewers to adjust dialog loudness as they desire.

Through the course of more than two decades, Fraunhofer IIS has licensed its audio codec software and application-specific customizations to at least 1,000 companies. Fraunhofer estimates that it has enabled more than 6 billion commercial products worldwide using its mp3, AAC and other media technologies.

The Fraunhofer IIS organization is part of Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft, based in Munich, Germany. Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft is Europe's largest applied research organization and is partly funded by the German government. With 22,000 employees worldwide, Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft is composed of 66 Institutes conducting research in a broad range of research areas.

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