

PRESS RELEASE

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Freebox SAS Enters Patent License Agreement for Fraunhofer IIS Advanced Audio Coding Patent Portfolio

ERLANGEN, Germany (September 15, 2016) – European set-top-box manufacturer, Freebox SAS enters into a worldwide patent license agreement with the renowned developer of audio and multimedia technologies, Fraunhofer IIS for Fraunhofer's Advanced Audio Coding (AAC) patent portfolio. The license agreement addresses past and future use of Fraunhofer's AAC patent portfolio in Freebox's products, such as set-top boxes.

"We are delighted that Freebox has chosen to license our AAC patent portfolio for this important and innovative technology, which to date has been implemented in more than eight billion devices worldwide," said Stefan Geyersberger, Head of Patents and Licensing and Deputy Division Director Audio & Multimedia of Fraunhofer IIS.

Fraunhofer IIS is one of the main developers of the MPEG AAC audio codec family including AAC-LC, HE-AAC, AAC-ELD and xHE-AAC. The AAC audio codecs are used in TV, radio, streaming, and communication services worldwide. The codecs combine high quality audio with low bit-rates and advanced features enabling an impressive audio experience for broadcast, streaming and communications systems.

Fraunhofer IIS is committed to ensuring a level playing field for licensees in the market place by making its AAC patent portfolio available to the industry through its individual patent licensing programs and Via Licensing Corporation's AAC patent programs on FRAND terms. This has provided Fraunhofer with the necessary resources to reinvest in research and development of next generation audio technologies and securing its position as the worldwide leading competence center in the field of audio coding and signal processing.

For more information about the AAC family of codecs, please visit <http://www.iis.fraunhofer.de/amm>.

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About Fraunhofer

When it comes to advanced audio technologies for the rapidly evolving media world, Fraunhofer IIS stands alone. For more than 25 years, digital audio technology has been the principle focus of the Audio and Multimedia division. 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. Fraunhofer IIS technologies enable more than 8 billion devices worldwide. The audio codec implementations are licensed to more than 1,000 companies.

Fraunhofer IIS is based in Erlangen, Germany, and is an institute of Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft, Europe's largest applied research organization with nearly 24,000 employees.

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