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IPTV is coming... Interoperability taken a step further

Widespread deployment of IPTV services is currently hampered by a lack of interoperability among products. The Open IPTV Forum, the pan-industry initiative that was established to produce an end-to-end solution, is now fulfilling that promise. The Forum is pleased to announce that a number of detailed system and protocol specifications for Release 1 have been finalized at its meeting in Berlin, Sep 8 - 11.

Those specifications will allow the industry to deploy IPTV networks and devices that inter-operate, while offering an evolution path for the future. Such networks and devices will allow the industry to deliver IPTV services that are easy to use as well as attractive to the end user..

The specifications cover the following areas to ensure a high level of interoperability:

- Audio/Video Media Formats
- Content Metadata
- Protocols for Home Network, User-Network and Network-Network interfaces
- Declarative Application Environment
- Procedural Application Environment
- Content and Service Protection

An additional overview document will provide a guide to using these specifications to deliver the services described in the [Service and Platform Requirements](#) and [Services and Functions for Release 1](#). Work has also begun on creating test specifications to aid interoperability testing of the interfaces exposed by these specifications.

The specifications will be published by mid November at the Forum's web site at www.openiptvforum.org.

The Forum will present its current activities at the upcoming IBC trade show event on Sept. 12 – 17 ([IBC2008 Business Briefings Saturday September 13th 09.30 and 15.30](#)) and at the [Master Class, jointly held with MPEGIF on Sept. 11th 14.00-17.30](#)), as well as in the [IPTV Zone where you can find us in Pod IP254](#).



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NOTES FOR EDITORS

IPTV (Internet Protocol Television or Interactive Personalised Television) is a system where a [digital television](#) service is delivered using [Internet Protocol](#) over managed network infrastructure, which includes delivery by a [broadband](#) connection. A general definition of IPTV is television content that, instead of being delivered through traditional broadcast and cable formats, is received by the viewer through telecommunication networks optimized for transport of multimedia content. With converged IPTV services, the television and mobile phone screen become a connected means of communication, allowing the viewer to interact with the service. It will have numerous applications, for example, in video on demand, shopping, for special needs, quiz shows, voting in television shows, etc.

The Open IPTV Forum is fully open to participants from across the communications and entertainment industries, and brings together network operators, content providers, service providers, consumer electronics manufacturers and home and network infrastructure providers. The members of the Open IPTV Forum are working together on the development of open standards because they recognise that combining the expertise of all involved will help to streamline and accelerate deployments of IPTV technologies. Their aim is to take the next generation of IPTV into a mass market service and maximise the benefits of IPTV for consumers as well as the industry.

For more information, visit www.openiptvforum.org

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