










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AVISTA PARTNERS







AVISTA Project
May, 2005
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EDITORIAL

NAVSHP IST Village at IBC 2005 organized by AVISTA



The AVISTA Project will organize at IBC 2005 a common exhibition of several NAVSHP Projects in order to actively cooperate in the dissemination activities of the FP6 NAVSHP Projects, and will support a common exhibiting area.


In order to select the projects which will receive the AVISTA support, the AVISTA Project has called the FP6 NAVSHP Projects to seek their intentions to participate in the IBC 2005. A survey has been sent to the coordinators of the FP6 NAVSHP Projects in order to request the needs of their exhibitions and seek their adequacy to the IBC exhibition in the light of their connection to other FP6 NAVSHP projects, the advantages of a common exhibition in the IBC and other merits of the projects.

EPERSPACE, MHP CONFIDENCE, COHERENT, TIRAMISU, DANAE, INSTINCT, ENTRONE, MEDIANET have applied to present their demonstrations within the NAVSHP IST Village. Additionally, all the NAVSHP projects will be invited to present the main results accomplished so far by means of presentations and poster sessions.

The NAVSHP IST Village will consist of a number of spaces for the projects, two desks which will serve as information points of AVISTA, BIP, New Media Council and NEM (invited to be present in the NAVSHP village), and a "screening area" located in the middle of the stand, allowing visitors to follow the presentations of all NAVSHP projects. Regarding the relevance of this initiative to the NAVSHP Constituency it is important to point out that the combined demonstrations will show the results of the different projects and address key issues of the NAVSHP area, particularly those corresponding to the scope of the Concertation Groups.

Further information on participation in IBC 2005 can be found at: <http://www.rose.es/navshp>

IBC 2005 will showcase the latest technology and business in Broadcasting and Media



The IBC Exhibition will take place at the Amsterdam RAI from 9 - 13 September 2005, and it will showcase the latest technology and foremost business ideas in broadcasting and media.

The exhibition is internationally renowned for being run by the industry and offers unparalleled expertise and opportunities in the fields of content creation, management and delivery. With over 1,000 companies from over 120 countries, the IBC Exhibition covers the whole breadth of electronics communications. Please read more about IBC 2005 at: <http://www.ibc.org>

The NMC at IBC 2005

The New Media Council will be present at the IST Village organized by AVISTA from 9th to 13th September, 2005. Additionally, on Tuesday 13th September the New Media Council will present the NAVSHP Project Line at Room A from 14:00 to 16:00 hrs, under the title: **Beyond The New Media Horizon: The EU IST NAVSHP Project Line**. Further information can be found on page 3, under the NMC column.



FP6 NAVSHP Projects: Progress carried out by the CGs.

CG-1: Digital Rights Management (DRM)

The participation in this CG has been remarkable in terms of the number of projects presented and public attendance. In addition to the three Concertation Meetings, a working meeting was held in Palma de Mallorca on 24th October 2004. During this meeting the decision to elaborate the NAVSHP DRM Requirements document was decided. This document is already drafted and has been endorsed by the New Media Council. The draft is now open to new comments and suggestions before its final approval.

CG-2: Quality of Service (QoS)

With a view to collaborate with other projects and Coordination Groups in order to optimize the R&D effort/investment and impact, cooperation was done on a project-to-project basis (availability of results, algorithms, prototypes, test infrastructures, etc) and at the Coordination Group 2 level, the collaboration was commonly agreed.

On top of that, nice technical presentations have been made in relation with subjective tests and methodologies, perceived QoS and network QoS, and a common language has been defined. Some difficulties arose when starting collaborations: what to exchange, how to reach an agreement, IPR, how to deal with additional work, etc. Nevertheless, they have been overcome. In addition to the three Concertation Meetings, the CG held a working meeting in Rennes on 14th January 2005 with a view to identify the CG 2 direction for common contribution aiming at producing results at the CG 2 level.

CG-3: Home Networks & Platforms

In the last two years, within the Coordination Group 3, focused on Home Networks and Platforms, the different projects have been introduced and discussed on the grounds of the technology available and the market status and trends. For these discussions the TEAHA Marketa background document and a Technology and Market Roadmap have been of great help. Moreover, the involvement of D2 Projects in events such as Net-at-Home 2004 and 2005, and the 1st EU-China "eHome" workshop (Beijing, April 2004) was decided and prepared.

The D2 portfolio analysis prepared by BIP and referred to technologies, standards, etc.. has been discussed and validated. Concertation with other projects and institutions (SmartHouse, DLNA, D1 Unit) has been sought regarding home platforms, user requirements, etc.

As preliminary conclusions, we can point out that the D2 Projects addressing the field of home networks and platforms form a quite coherent and powerful group at the international level and have a high exploitation potential and a high potential impact on international standards. This field should be carefully considered in the FP6-FP7 transition period, as huge markets are on sight (such as broadband houses) and is drawing the attention of top companies (LG Electronics, Motorola) as an important market target.

CG-4 Content Media Processing

At the inaugural meeting held in Nice in December 2004 five broad areas for coordination were defined in dual functionalities: media creating - playing, compressing - decompressing, persistent embedding - extracting, indexing - querying, event detecting - handling.

Pursuing CG-4 objectives, two general aspects of NAVSHP projects harmonization were raised: basic research on new media processing algorithms, and standardization efforts in the area, both activities being very coupled in media processing. The less costly alternative for developers and customers seems to be *end to end* applications interchanging data through shallow standard interfaces which are supported by a technology of online software distribution. To this goal various harmonization activities are planned: invited state-of-art lectures and presentations of NAVSHP projects best results at concertation meetings; preparing software/hardware demo in collocated to concertation meetings events; exchanging of opinions and ideas through CG-4 reflector; issuing monthly newsletter (within VISNET newsletter); creating and maintaining a web page with current references to best books, papers, and reports relevant to particular thematic group.

MHP-CONFIDENCE submits MHP 1.0.3 Conformance Tests to DVB's MHP Experts Group

During the recent working phases, the MHP CONFIDENCE project has identified both, areas for improvement of the existing DVB MHP Test Suite 1.0.2.b, and areas which require specific changes or extensions for MHP 1.0.3. Following this research, the project has implemented a substantial amount of new conformance tests and has validated these in a dedicated qualification process.

On 23rd Nov 04 and 25th Jan 2005, the MHP CONFIDENCE project has submitted in total 1065 new conformance tests to the DVB MHP Experts Group which is in charge of assembling the new Test Suite MHP 1.0.3.a.

Besides giving another boost to the MHP 1.0.3 Test Suite, further work of the project targets at contributing to the development of conformance tests for recently updated or newly developed specifications for MHP 1.1 and MHP PVR/PDR extensions.

MHP-CONFIDENCE (MHP Conformance Testing Improvement by Development of New Conformance Tests in Europe) is an EU funded FP 6 project specifically targeted at strengthening the conformance testing regime of the DVB Multimedia Home Platform Standard (MHP). The goal of the project is to develop new conformance tests as an enabling technology for the successful deployment of MHP components in the market and thus to foster the integration of networked audio-visual systems and home platforms as well as the development of innovative services on the basis of interoperable applications.

Main activities of MHP-CONFIDENCE are to identify areas where MHP interoperability can be strengthened by additional Conformance Tests, to setup specifications for programming related tests, to implement these tests and to verify them in a quality acceptance process to such an extent that they match the quality criteria imposed for DVB's Official MHP Test Suite.

Project Partners:

IRT Institut für Rundfunktechnik (Germany)
Alticast (Germany)
NDS France (France)
Nokia (Finland)
Panasonic (Germany)
Philips(UK)
Sony (UK)

<http://www.irt.de/mhp-confidence>



NAVSHP New Media Council

Follow-on of the NMC meeting in Brussels (Feb 10th)

The Fourth Meeting of the NAVSHP New Media Council was held in Brussels on February 10th 2005, in a Plenary Session organized by AVISTA Project in coordination with the European Commission D2 Unit (Networked Audiovisual Systems and Home Platforms - NAVSHP). The meeting was chaired by David Wood (EBU), NMC Chairman, and it was attended by 51 experts including Standardization and Regulators in the NAVSHP field, R&D Community and Industrialists, responsible for development of R&D national programs in the NAVSHP fields as well as European Commission officers, FP6 projects representatives, and AVISTA Project Team members.

The main issues addressed at the meeting included the overall Networked and Electronic Media equation and the next steps of NEM (Mr. Seseña - NEM Secretariat); the presentation of the NAVSHP Portfolio Analysis (Mr. Dosch - Concertation Chairman); the NAVSHP Programme Review (Mr. Nicol and Mr. Gelissen - NMC Principal Strategic Advisors); the distribution of networked media activities, the media sector in general and the personal entertainment in particular (Mr. Di Francesco); an overview of the NAVSHP Concertation process so far (Mr. Dosch - Concertation Chairman); a summary of the activities of the different CGs (CG-1 on DRM by Mr. Dias; CG-2 on QoS by Mr. Abraham; CG-3 on In-Home Networks by Mr. Torrenti; CG-4 on Media Processing by Mr. Skarbek).

Other interesting points of the agenda were the presentation by Mr. Dias of the DRM Requirements document, the presentation on Networked Audiovisual Media Technologies by Mr. Sikora (Network of Excellence VISNET Project); the explanation by Mr. Shapiro of the concept of CPCM, an end-to-end Content Protection & Copy Management system implemented in consumer digital products and networks; and a review by Mr. McCann (Zetacast) of the upcoming challenges for the New Media sector in terms of networks, devices and regulation.

Next meetings scheduled in the NAVSHP context were reminded (CM in Brussels on 24 and 25 May, 2005 and The 'NMC Tuesday' in Amsterdam during the IBC2005 on 13 September, 2005).

Follow-on of the NEM initiative workshop, held in Nice (December 3rd 2004)



On December 3rd 2004, the NEM initiative workshop took place in Nice, promoted by Thomson, Alcatel, France Telecom, the European Broadcasting Union (EBU), Intel, Nokia, Philips and Telefónica I+D, supported by Rose Vision, Eurescom and Homega-Research.

More than 120 experts all over Europe have participated in this launching event, representing content producers (television, gaming, etc.), broadcasters, telecom equipment manufacturers and operators, consumer electronics manufacturers, silicon manufacturers, service providers, academic institutions, European and national initiatives, standardization organizations, industry associations, universities and technological centers.

The main objective of the NEM initiative is to foster the development and introduction of novel audiovisual and multimedia broadband services and applications. The implementation of the NEM vision through a European Technology Platform will provide, through a broad consensus process, strong and ambitious inputs for the European Union 7th Framework Programme and will work with other European and national R&D initiatives, such as the CELTIC Eureka programme.

Further information is available at <http://www.nem-initiative.org>.

NMC Tuesday at IBC 2005

On Tuesday 13th September the New Media Council will present the NAVSHP Project Line at Room A from 14:00 to 16:00 hrs, under the title:

Beyond The New Media Horizon The EU IST NAVSHP Project Line

Chaired by Andrew Oliphant & David Wood

There are currently some 23 European Commission collaborative research and development projects in 'new media' and they involve hundreds of companies and budgets of ranging from several hundred thousand Euros to tens of millions of Euros.

The NAVSHP Project Line ('Networked Audio Visual Systems and Home Platforms') which coordinates the Projects will give a series of presentations about progress in these Projects and future plans, which will be free to IBC attendees. They cover a range of subjects from content creation, broadcast and internet networks, to in-home networks. The Session will introduce delegates to the new frontiers of media research and development.

There will be a Commission Village in Hall 10 of the Exhibition to which some of the presentations will be linked.

For further information about the NAVSHP
New Media Council:

<http://www.rose.es/newmediacouncil>





The BIP Project



Increased cooperation links with Chinese organisations

A EU-China cooperation workshop will be organised in early 2006 in Beijing, in the framework of BIP2, a project selected following IST Call 3, coordinated by Homega Research and developing activities in continuity with the BIP Project. This workshop, which all NAVSHP projects are cordially invited to attend, will be in fact the second edition of an event whose first edition (organised by BIP on behalf of the European Commission and of the Chinese Ministry of Science and Technology) took place in Beijing in April 2004. In the last few years, many important technology and market developments have been witnessed in China in the NAVSHP field and the role China is playing in the standardisation arena worldwide is more and more significant. Strengthening of S&T cooperation links between Europe and China is seen as one of the suited means to secure strong commercial links between the two regions in the years to come.

The BIP2 project will organise the planned workshop in close liaison with the D2 Unit and the NAVSHP project so that the workshop outputs can precisely serve the interests of the European NAVSHP community. In the next months, a detailed market research focusing on the Chinese NAVSHP markets will be conducted by CECO, an organisation founded by the European Commission and the MOST, based in Beijing, and full partner of the BIP2 project. The specification of this market research and the expectations of the NAVSHP community regarding the planned workshop have been included as an agenda item of the CG3 meeting planned on April 24 and 25 in Brussels, in the framework of the NAVSHP Concertation meeting organised by the AVISTA project.

To get further information:

- EU-China S&T cooperation in the ICT field: www.eurochina-it.org
- BIP project: www.ist-bip.org
- EU-China workshop of April 2004 (information restricted to NAVSHP projects): info@ist-bip.org
- Further information on the BIP2 project (MS Karine Valin, BIP2 project coordinator): karine.valin@homega-research.com

CONCERTATION

Follow-on of the Nice Concertation Meeting held on November 30th - December 2nd.



This fourth Concertation Meeting within the FP6 era was held in Nice on November 30th and December 2nd, 2004, organized by BIP Project in association with the European Commission D2 Unit (Networked Audiovisual Systems and Home Platforms - NAVSHP) and supported by AVISTA Project. The meeting was attended by 75 projects representatives, including the EC officers Mr. B. Arroyo Fernandez, Mr. B. Barani, Mr. T. Devars, Mrs. J. de Jaegher and Mr. Luis Rodríguez-Roselló (Head of Unit D2). Mr. Luis Rodríguez-Rosello, Head of Unit D2, made a welcoming address to all present and encouraged the FP6 NAVSHP projects to face the future challenges. On behalf of the Commission, Bartolomé Arroyo-Fernández, D2 Deputy Head of Unit, made a presentation about the last news from the Commission on NAVSHP and advanced some relevant points about the preparation of the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7).

The four Coordination Groups worked in parallel sessions. The launch of a new Coordination Group on 'Media processing and content related matters' was proposed, and it will be set up formally at the next concertation meeting. An additional CG on 'Metadata' was proposed, but no Convenor was suggested. Finally, Mr. Bart Brusse introduced the activities and first results of the Cooperation Platform for Research and Standards (COPRAS Project) and Julian Seseña proposed the structure of the concertation meetings for 2005. A list of events, conferences and exhibitions related to the NAVSHP field was shown to the attendance. The complete and updated list is available at the AVISTA website (<http://www.rose.es/navshp/>).

Agenda of the 24th-25th May 2005 Concertation Meeting

The next Concertation Meeting will take place in Brussels on 24th-25th May 2005. The agenda will be as follows:

24th May (Coordination Groups)	14:00 -18:00
13:30-14:00 Internal meeting AVISTA – BIP – EC Officers	
14.00-18.00 Coordination Groups parallel streams	
• CG 1. Digital Rights Management. Convenor: Leonardo Chiriaglione. Room BU 24 0/70 – Avenue Beaulieu, 24	
• CG 2. Quality of Service. Convenors: Dr. Hutchison, Dr. Denis Abraham. Room BU 24 0/84 – Avenue Beaulieu, 24	
• CG 3. In-Home Networks and Platforms. Convenor: Roger Torrenti. Room BU 33 0/54 – Avenue Beaulieu, 33	
• CG 4. Media Processing. Convenor: Wladyslaw Skarbek. Room BU 31 0/40 – Avenue Beaulieu, 31	
25th May (Concertation Plenary)	9.00 – 16.00
09.00-09.30 Plenary. Information and updates from the EC	
09:30-10:30 Summary of Coordination Groups discussions	
10:30-10:45 Updates on the NEM Initiative	
10:45-11:00 Updates Standardization Action Plan - (Bart Brusse, COPRAS)	
11.15-11.45 Preparation of the NAVSHP IST Common Demo in IBC 2005	
11.45-13.00 Status and opportunities of DVB-H Technology Chair: Mr. Luis RODRIGUEZ-ROSELLO Head of Networked Audiovisual Systems Unit, DG Information Society (Lecturers: Prof. Ulrich Reimers, Christian Rauch, Göran Wahlberg)	
14.00-15.00 Discussion on the NAVSHP IST Common Exhibition IBC 2005	
15:00-16:00 Workplan for 2005	



Relevant Events and Conferences

The following events and conferences have been identified as relevant to the Audiovisual Systems and Home Platforms Strategic Objective:

- "Inmofutura", SIMO, Ifema Madrid, España. 25-29 May, 2005
<http://www.saloninmobiliario.com/esp/pages/home/home.php>
- 6th International Conference on Computer-Aided Industrial Design and Conceptual Design (CAID&CD'2005). TU Delft, The Netherlands. 29 May - 1 June, 2005.
<http://www.io.tudelft.nl/caidcd2005/>
- ANGA Cable 2005 Convention. Congress of cable, satellite and multimedia. Cologne, Germany. 31 May - 2 June, 2005
<http://www.angacable.de/>
- EISCO - European Information Society Conference. Krakow, Poland. June, 2005
<http://www.eisco2003.org/>
- 5th European Congress and Exhibition on Intelligent Transport Systems and Services. Hannover, Germany. 1-3 June, 2005
<http://www.itsineurope.com/>
- IWTC 2005. International workshop on Convergent Technologies. 10th anniversary of IWTC. Oulu, Finland. 6-10 June, 2005
<http://www.cwc.oulu.fi/>
- Third International Conference on Multimedia and ICT in the eLearning (m-ICTE2005) Cáceres. Spain. 8-10 June, 2005
<http://www.formatex.org/micte2005/>
- Broadcast Asia 2005. Singapore. 14-17 June, 2005
<http://www.broadcast-asia.com/>

All projects interested in participating as exhibitors in some of these events (or any other one not included here) please contact to AVISTA project in order to select the most appropriate events as well as to coordinate their exhibitions as far as possible.

EVENTS

14th IST Mobile & Wireless Communications Summit



The 14th IST Summit focuses on bringing together experts from the worldwide wireless industry and research communities. Recent advances in all fields related to mobile and wireless communications will be presented, thereby facilitating the identification of future trends, illumination of business opportunities, and discussion on the future roles of various bodies from academia, industry, and research centres in helping to form the vision of an ambient, truly intelligent communications environment.

The programme will include 4 selected tutorials, 8 workshops from a variety of initiatives, Panels on B3G/4G, the Trend towards Simplicity, IP over DVB, and a special session on 4G system proposals in Asia.

Please read information on participation as an R&D organization, commercial sponsor, or exhibitor at: <http://www.mobilesummit2005.org>

If you intended to present your project at the IST Mobile Summit, **urgently contact** the organizers as the deadline for papers has already passed.

14 th IST Summit 2005
19th - 23rd June 2005

eChallenges 2005 in Ljubljana



The e-2005 eChallenges Conference takes place in Ljubljana. This is the fifteenth in a series of Annual Conferences supported by the European Commission, which regularly attracts over 500 delegates from commercial, government & research organisations around the world to share knowledge, experience, lessons learnt and good practice.

Focusing on eBusiness, eGovernment, eWork, eEurope beyond 2005 and ICT take-up by SMEs and International Co-operation on IST, the goal of e-2005 is to stimulate take-up of Research & Technology Development (RTD) results by industry, in particular SMEs, and the European public sector.

e-2005 will provide a forum to showcase the achievements of FP6, eEurope 2005 and Regional, National and International ICT related initiatives, and look forward to the future by focusing on the thematic priorities of FP6 and FP7. The European Research Area (ERA) and research priorities and trends for the future will also be discussed.

The core thematic priorities for e-2005 are eBusiness (Future forms of organisations, Technology and Applications), eGovernment (Services to Citizens and Business, Organisational Transformation), eWork (New Working Environments), eEurope beyond 2005 and ICT Take-up by SMEs, and International Collaboration on IST.

Further information is available at: <http://www.echallenges.org/2005/>



MHP Knowledge Database goes public



The MHP Knowledge Database, being developed by the MHP Knowledge Project, is now available as a prototype version for online access to the whole MHP community. The database is accessible through the project website <http://www.mhpkdb.org/> and is open for registration. All interested users from companies and organisations active in the field of MHP are invited to benefit from the offered MHP knowledge and to actively make use of it for information exchange and to share practical experience on interoperability issues. For the relevant MHP issues, the database presents a continuously growing number of solutions including reference application modules as "OpenSource" code which is available for free usage by any MHP-developer. The know-how in the database addresses all components within the entire value chain of MHP-based applications. The project website also gives access to a "virtual test centre" which presents the unique possibility to test MHP applications online on standard hardware MHP decoders, without the need for physical access to a testing laboratory.

About the MHP Knowledge Project:

DVB-MHP (Digital Video Broadcasting - Multimedia Home Platform) is the standard to bring about full interoperability and a truly open market in the interactive digital television arena. In order to actively support and accelerate MHP take-up throughout Europe and beyond, THE MHP KNOWLEDGE PROJECT was launched in December 2003. In this EC co-funded research project some core members of the MHP Alliance joined forces with notable partners from technology research. The main goal is to enable an optimal interoperability from the usage of the MHP technology assuring a horizontal market approach on the basis of an open standard for the benefit of both the end-user and the media- and CE-manufacturing industry.

Project partners: IRT (leading contractor), Bayerische Medientechnik, Danish Broadcasting Corporation, Deutsche Welle, Instituto Tecnológico de Aragón, Rundfunk Berlin-Brandenburg, Panasonic AVC Networks Germany, Philips CE/STB, Telenor, iComLabs, University of Duisburg-Essen

Contact: <http://www.mhpkdb.org>
info@mhpkdb.org

Coordinator: Klaus Merkel. IRT GmbH
merkel@irt.de

Of interest to NAVSHP

Broadcasting to 'Handhelds' - the new frontier



The European public is said to have a 'love affair' with mobile phones. The 2.5G and 3G services digital telephone available in some parts of Europe today can also provide multimedia services which include vision and sound elements. Video or audio can be streamed or downloaded, together with text and graphics. Such services are usually provided using Internet Protocol, but within a closed (walled garden) environment.

The digital telephone industry believes that the next step forward is to also provide broadcast services on digital telephone handsets. This will be useful for media that is needed by the user in 'real time', or is needed by many people at the same time, or for media which is more freely available. The market case is that the European public will pay a few more Euros a month in subscription for the capacity to receive a range of broadcast services, some old some new, any-time, and anywhere on their mobile handset. Such services may also be valuable for reception on a laptop or in the car.

The technology to so have been developed in a number of forums. Most activity has been centred in the DVB Project, where an especially ruggedized form of the DVB-T system, DVB-H, has been developed. This has been tested in Germany and Finland, and tests are scheduled for the UK and Pittsburgh in the United States. Another Technology, termed DMB, which is a developed form of the DAB system, and which serves a similar purpose, is also available, and has been successfully tested in Germany and Norway. If two were not enough, separate systems have been developed in the United States by Qualcomm, and in Japan (ISDN-Tr). This massive interest worldwide suggests that the issue of broadcasting to handhelds will be a key element of the information society.

There are issues to resolve about the use of the DVB-H system, not least of which are the digital rights management system, the multimedia application, and the cohabitation with the digital telephone system.

At the forthcoming NAVSHP Concertation Meeting, there will be a Session dedicated to evaluating the potential role that research can play in helping DVB-H and related technology to be successful for Europe.

Information from AVISTA project

AVISTA launches new website portal and NAVSHP collaborative working environment

The new AVISTA website is available at <http://www.ist-avista.org>. It is structured as a portal where relevant information from NAVSHP projects and the concertation work is available, together with the sessions on events, news, portfolio, coordination groups, etc.

In addition, a new collaborative working environment has been created and can be used in an experimental way to foster further and more intensive cooperation among NAVSHP projects. It is available from the AVISTA website portal as well as from the projectplace.com. If you want to access the collaborative NAVSHP working area, please send an email to jpsoto@rose.es



Each project is reminded on the permanent invitation to provide to the AVISTA staff (avista2005@rose.es) information, comments and suggestions on additional themes for CGs, new subjects for Concertation, key people as coordinators of new CGs, dissemination activities, suggestions for the AVISTA website, suggestions for the AVISTA Newsletter, information regarding projects' meetings, etc.