

Press Release

Erlangen,
February 6, 2012

Berlinale Relies on Fraunhofer IIS Expertise to Test Digital Film Formats

According to the latest market analysis more than half of all worldwide movie screens have been converted to digital cinema. Especially for smaller post-production houses, mastering DCPs (digital cinema packages) can be a challenge. In order to have all movies ready for screening on February 9th for the opening of the Berlin International Film Festival, called Berlinale, Fraunhofer Institute for Integrated Circuits IIS supports the technical quality control of all submissions of data media and movies in the DCP format.

Prepared for the general trends in cinema production, the Berlinale is ready for the rising number of submissions in digital cinema formats. To ensure a high level of technical performance and reliability, all digital material undergoes technical quality control. This includes the conversion of digital cinema packages into a format ready for playback.

Festival manager Johannes Wachs strongly welcomes the cooperation: "In Fraunhofer IIS we found a partner with proven expertise in the field of digital cinema who makes our work much easier testing the specific digital formats."

Commissioned by Digital Cinema Initiatives DCI, a joint venture of Hollywood Studios, Fraunhofer IIS produced the first compliance test plan for digital cinema systems. It ensures that in the age of digital cinematography exhibitors can show motion pictures in digital form in their theatres worldwide. Fraunhofer experts also created system specifications for digital cinema for the German Federal Film Board (FFA).

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Cooperations with partners from the industry propel innovative developments in this area.

Siegfried Föbel, head of the Moving Picture Technologies department at Fraunhofer IIS, affirms: "We are very pleased to assist one of the landmark film festivals of international standing with our expertise. The cooperation with and support of filmmakers gave us the unique opportunity to offer our developments and technologies tailored to the needs and expectations of the film industry."

For more, please see www.iis.fraunhofer.de/en/

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About Fraunhofer IIS

Founded in 1985 the Fraunhofer Institute for Integrated Circuits IIS in Erlangen, today with more than 750 staff members, ranks first among the Fraunhofer Institutes concerning headcount and revenues. As the main inventor of mp3 and universally credited with the co-development of AAC audio coding standard, Fraunhofer IIS has reached worldwide recognition. It provides research services on contract basis and technology licensing.

The research topics are: Audio and video source coding, multimedia realtime systems, digital radio broadcasting and digital cinema systems, integrated circuits and sensor systems, design automation, wireless, wired and optical networks, localization and navigation, imaging systems and nanofocus X-ray technology, high-speed cameras, medical sensor solutions and supply chain services.

The budget of more than 95 million Euro is mainly financed by projects from industry, the service sector and public authorities. Less than 25 percent of the budget is subsidized by federal and state funds.