CCITT SGXV
Working Party XV/1
Specialists Group on Coding for Visual Telephony

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Title: Hardware status and plans

Source: AEG, BT, France, IMAGIN project, PKI

This contribution outlines the work in Europe aimed at providing hardware to verify the CCITT recommendation on p*64 kbit/s video codecs.

AEG Aktiengesellschaft

AEG has developed prototypes of 2*64 kbit/s ISDN video-telephones based on a fully programmable codec hardware. We are in our time schedule in developing a new software according to the flexible hardware specs which will be the basis for the future rec. H.261. We will have the possibility to take part in flexible hardware tests in september via 2B-ISDN links in Germany.

British Telecom

BT intends to have fully functional flexible hardware for the encoder ready for field trials by the end of September 1989.
The decoder hardware will be complete by mid October.
The codec will be capable of operating at full CIF and Quarter-CIF with all values of p.

France (CNET, SAT and ALCATEL-CIT)

There are now four prototypes which have been developed by SAT and ALCATEL-CIT under a FRANCE TELECOM contract (CNET), working at full and quarter CIF at 10 Hz and still limited to p = 2.
There are other developments in CNET labs and in cooperation with others companies for codecs mainly working at 1/4 CIF (p = 2) and in line with the H.261 recommendation.
It is our intention to take part in the field trials with one of those codecs.

IMAGIN

The IMAGIN project (CNET, CSELT, FI/DBP, PTT-RNL and STA) is developing a videophone terminal for ISDN in which the video codec will be in line with the CCITT H.261 recommendation.
According to the time schedule the project intends to have a flexible hardware ready by end of september and capable of operating at full CIF and with p = 2.
This first prototype will be located at Leidschendam. Detailed indication of the links used in the field trials are needed to prepare the required facilities and interfaces in due time.

Philips Kommunication Industrie AG

PKI is developing a codec for the upcoming H.261 standard. But with the given time schedule for field trials only a decoder based on a modification of the existing hardware can take part. With the announcement of INMOS to provide first samples of a DCT/IDCT-chip according to the CCITT requirements in July the redesign of the board containing the IDCT and the filter is scheduled to be completed by the beginning of september. An unmodified hardware with a changed software for the new video multiplex will be prepared for testing the DIS test generator during the next Okubo-meeting.