Sipro Lab Telecom Provides Single Licensing Point for International Telecommunication Union's G.729 Voice Compression Standard

Paris, July 1999 - Sipro Lab Telecom today announced that it has been authorized by France Telecom, Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp., and the University of Sherbrooke, Canada, to serve as a central licensing point for intellectual property rights owned by these entities in the G.729 Recommendation.

This standard was adopted by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU-T). This specialized agency of the United Nations is chartered with coordinating standards for international global telecommunications networks and services. The agency's goal is to provide telecommunications equipment compatibility and interoperability across national boundaries by serving as an international focal point for governments and the private sector.

The ITU-T's G.729 standard is based on the most efficient algorithms available for audio compression to enable the digital transmission and storage of toll quality speech, supporting applications such as teleconferencing, voice over Internet, and cellular phones.

To this moment, Sipro Lab Telecom has licensed approximately twenty companies for the rights of the G.729 Consortium for use of G.729 within their products, amongst which figure the following companies:

ACT Networks	Nokia Corporation
British Sky Broadcasting, Ltd	Racal Recorders, Ltd
Dialogic Corporation	General Datacomm Industries, Inc.
TDF	Matsushita Communications Industrial Co., Ltd
OKI Electric Industry Co., Ltd	Hitachi America Ltd.(implementation license)
Scientific Atlanta	Sipro Lab Telecom, Inc. (implementation license)

Contribution of G.729 to the telecommunication industry

While uncompressed voice is transmitted digitally using bandwidth of 64kb per second, with G.729 the same quality can be realized with bandwidth utilization of 8kb per second, substantially reducing demands on telecommunications infrastructure bandwidth.

A less complex subset of G.729, Annex A, enables DSVD (digital simultaneous voice and data), a digital technology for concurrent transmission of voice and data over a single analog phone line. The voice quality is slightly degraded, while remaining close to the quality of G.729 despite the reduced complexity of the algorithm.

Last September 1998, the ITU also ratified other subsets of G.729 of which is Annex D that allows adaptive variable bit rates from 8 kb per second to 6.4 kb per second, during network congestion for instance. In contrast, when bandwidth is available, with Annex E the bit rate can increase slightly higher to 11.8kb per second to improve the performance in the presence of background noise and music.

Also available are Annex C (the floating-point version of G.729, better adapted to standard internal processors such as PC Pentium) and Annex B, which adds the features of VAD/DTX/CNG (Voice Activity Detector, Discontinuous Transmission and Comfort Noise Generator).

Adherence to the G.729 standard by equipment manufacturers is necessary to ensure interoperability, particularly across national borders. Technically, the merits of G.729 are widely accepted and recognized by the telecommunications industry as well as the users. Unfortunately, until now there has been no single source for equipment vendors to license the intellectual property contained in the standard. As a result, some entities have elected to gather into a group capable of licensing a common patent portfolio: the G.729 Consortium, represented by its exclusive agent, Sipro Lab Telecom.

"We provide One-Stop Shopping for any vendor seeking to ensure that they do not violate patent restrictions when incorporating G.729 into their designs," said Laurent Amar, president of Sipro Lab Telecom. "We take the complexity of negotiating individual patent rights from each intellectual property owner out of the process of building any device-whether it's a bridge, router or wireless phone-that has a G.729 codec integrated into the design."

The G.729 Consortium has developed a flexible pricing schedule for royalty payments that is designed to meet the specialized needs of each segment of the telecommunications industry. The pricing is based on an extensive survey conducted by Sipro to determine how different types of vendors prefer to make licensing arrangements and is intended to help facilitate widespread adoption of the G.729 standard.

About Sipro Lab Telecom…

Sipro Lab Telecom has been the commercial representative of the University of Sherbrooke Speech Compression Laboratory and its famous ACELPâ technology since 1994. In 1997, it was elected the exclusive Licensing Agent for France Télécom, Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corporation and the Université de Sherbrooke (Canada) to represent the G.729 Consortium. The company is headquartered in Montreal and maintains a web site at www.g729.org.

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