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|  | Moving Picture, Audio and Data Coding by Artificial Intelligence  www.mpai.community |

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|  | |
| N132 | 2021/01/19 |
| Source | Audio-Events-Data |
| Title | Draft MPAI-MMC Call for Technologies |
| Target | MPAI Members |

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# Introduction

Moving Picture, Audio and Data Coding by Artificial Intelligence (MPAI) is an international non-profit organisation with the mission to develop standards for Artificial Intelligence (AI) enabled digital data coding and for technologies that facilitate integration of data coding components into ICT systems. With the mechanism of Framework Licences, MPAI seeks to attach clear IPR licensing frameworks to its standards.

MPAI has found that the application area called “Multimodal Communication” is particul­arly relevant for MPAI standardisation because using context information to act on the input audio content can substantially improve the user experience of a variety of audio-related applications that include entertainment, communication, teleconferencing, gaming, post-produc­tion, restor­ation etc. for a variety of contexts such as in the home, in the car, on-the-go, in the studio etc.

Therefore, MPAI intends to develop a standard – to be called MPAI-MMC – that will provide standard tech­nologies to implement four Use Cases identified so far

1. Conversation with emotion (CWE)
2. Multimodal Question Answering (MQA)
3. Personalized Automatic Speech Translation (PST)

The standard will be developed having with the following guidelines

1. To satisfy the Functional Requirements of N133 [1], available online. In the future, MPAI may decide to extend MPAI-MMC to support other Use Cases.
2. To use, where feasible and desirable, the same basic technologies required by the companion document MPAI-CAE Use Cases and Functional Requirements [2].
3. To be suitable for implementation as AI Modules (AIM) conforming to the emerging MPAI AI Framework (MPAI-AIF) standard. The MPAI-AIF Functional Requirements N74 [4] and the Call for Technologies (N100) [5] are available online [here](https://mpai.community/standards/mpai-aif/#Requirements) and [here](https://mpai.community/standards/mpai-aif/#Technologies).

This document is a Call for Technologies (CfT) that

1. satisfy the functional requirements of N133
2. are released according to the Framework Licence of N1xy available online, if selected by MPAI for inclusion in the MPAI-MMC standard.

Respondents should be aware that

1. the set of Use Cases that make up MPAI-MMC, the Use Cases themselves and the AIM internals will be *non-normative*
2. The input and output interfaces of the AIMs, whose requirements have been derived to support the Use Cases, will be *normative*.

**Therefore, the scope of this Call for Technologies is restricted to technologies required to implement the input and output interfaces of the AIMs identified in N133** [1]**.**

However, MPAI invites comments on any technology or architectural component identified in N133, specifically

1. Additions or removals of input/output signals to the identified AIMs with identification of data formats required by the new input/output signals
2. Possible alternative partitioning of the AIMs implementing the example cases providing
   1. Arguments in support of the proposed partitioning
   2. Detailed specifications of the inputs and outputs of the proposed new AIMs
3. New Use Cases fully described as in this document.

All parties who believe they have relevant technologies satisfying all or most of the requirements of one or more than one Use Case described in N133 are invited to submit proposals for consid­eration by MPAI. MPAI membership is not a prerequisite for responding to this CfT. However, proponents should be aware that, if their proposal or part thereof is accepted for inclusion in the MPAI-MMC standard, they shall immediately join MPAI, or their accepted technologies will be discarded.

MPAI will select the most suitable technologies based on their technical merits for inclusion in MPAI-MMC. However, MPAI in not obligated, by virtue of this CfT, to select a particular tech­nology or to select any technology if those submitted are found inadequate.

Submissions are due on 2021/04/13T23:59 UTC and will be reviewed according to the schedule that the 7th MPAI General Assembly (MPAI-7) will define at its online meeting on 2021/04/15. For details on how submitters who are not MPAI members can attend the said review please contact the MPAI secretariat ([secretariat@mpai.community](mailto:secretariat@mpai.community)).

# How to submit a response

Those planning to respond to this CfT

1. Are advised that online events will be held on 2021/02/24 and 2021/03/10 to present the MPAI-MMC CfT and respond to questions. Logistic information on these events will be posted on the MPAI web site
2. Are requested to communicate their intention to respond to this CfT with an initial version of the form of Annex A to the MPAI secretariat ([secretariat@mpai.community](mailto:secretariat@mpai.community)) by 2021/03/18. A potential submitter making a communication using the said form is not required to actually make a submission. Submission will be accepted even if the submitter did not communicate their intention to submit a response.

Responses to this MPAI-MMC CfT shall/may include:

*Table 1 – Mandatory and optional elements of a response*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Item** | **Status** |
| Detailed documentation describing the proposed technologies | mandatory |
| The final version of Annex A | mandatory |
| The text of Annex B duly filled out with the table indicating which requirements identified in MPAI N131 [1] are satisfied. If all the requirements of a Use Case are not satisfied, this should be explained. | mandatory |
| Comments on the completeness and appropriateness of the MPAI-MMC requirem­ents and any motivated suggestion to amend or extend those requirements. | optional |
| A preliminary demonstration, with a detailed document describing it. | optional |
| Any other additional relevant information that may help evaluate the submission, such as additional use cases. | optional |
| The text of Annex E. | mandatory |

Respondents are invited to take advantage of the check list of Annex C before submitting their response and filling out Annex B.

Responses shall be submitted to [secretariat@mpai.community](mailto:secretariat@mpai.community) (MPAI secretariat) by 2020/04/13 T23:59 UTC. The secretariat will acknowledge receipt of the submission via email.

Respondents are requested to present their submission (mandatory) at a properly announce MPAI meeting by teleconference. If no presenter will attend the meeting, the proposal will be discarded.

Respondents are advised that, *upon acceptance by MPAI of their submission in whole or in part for further evaluation*, MPAI will require that

* A working implementation, including source code – for use in the development of the MPAI-MMC Reference Software – be made available before the technology is accepted for the MPAI-MMC standard. Software may be written in programming languages that can be compiled or interpreted and in hardware description languages.
* The working implementation be suitable for operation in the MPAI AI Framework (MPAI-AIF)
* A non-MPAI member immediately join MPAI. If the non-MPAI memberelects not to do so, their submission will be discarded. Direction on how to join MPAI can be found [online](https://mpai.community/how-to-join/join/).

Further information on MPAI can be obtained from the [MPAI website](https://www.mpai.community).

# Evaluation Criteria and Procedure

Proposals will be assessed using the following process

1. Evaluation panel is created from
   1. All MMC-DC members attending
   2. Non-MPAI members who are respondents
   3. Non respondents/non MPAI member experts invited in a consulting capacity
2. No one from 1.-2.-3. will be denied membership in the Evaluation panel
3. Respondents present their proposals
4. Evaluation Panel members ask questions
5. If required subjective and/or objective tests are carried out
   1. Define required tests
   2. Carry out the tests
   3. Produce report
6. At least 2 reviewers appointed to review & report about specific points in a proposal
7. Evaluation panel members fill out Annex 2 for each proposal
8. Respondents respond to evaluations
9. Proposal evaluation report is produced.

Expected development timeline

Timeline of the CfT, deadlines and response evaluation:

*Table 2 – Dates and deadlines*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Step** | **Date** |
| Call for Technologies | 2021/02/17 |
| Conference Call 1 | 2021/02/24T14:00 UTC |
| Conference Call 2 | 2021/03/10T15:00 UTC |
| Notification of intention to submit proposal | 2021/02/18 T23.59 UTC |
| Submission deadline | 2021/04/13T23.59 UTC |
| Evaluation of responses | 2021/04/15 (MPAI-7) |

Evaluation to be carried out during 2-hour sessions according to the calendar agreed at MPAI-7

# References

1. Draft MPAI-MMC Use Cases & Functional Requirements, MPAI N133
2. Draft MPAI-MMC Use Cases & Functional Requirements, MPAI N131
3. Draft MPAI-MMC Call for Technologies, MPAI N134
4. MPAI-AIF Use Cases & Functional Requirements, MPAI N74; <https://mpai.community/standards/mpai-aif/>
5. MPAI-AIF Call for Technologies, MPAI N100

# Annex A: Information Form

This information form is to be filled in by a respondent to the MPAI-AIF CfT

1. Title of the proposal
2. Organisation: company name, position, e-mail of contact person
3. What are the main functionalities of your proposal?
4. Does your proposal provide or describe a formal specification and APIs?
5. Will you provide a demonstration to show how your proposal meets the evaluation criteria?

# Annex B: Evaluation Sheet

**Proposal title:**

**Main Functionalities:**

**Response summary:** (a few lines)

**Comments on Relevance to the CfT (Requirements):**

**Comments on possible MPAI-MMC profiles[[1]](#footnote-1)**

**Evaluation table:**

*Table 3 – Assessment of submission features*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Submission features** | **Evaluation elements** | **Final Assessment** |
| Completeness of description |  |  |
| Understandability |  |  |
| Adaptability |  |  |
| Extensibility |  |  |
| Use of Standard Technology |  |  |
| Efficiency |  |  |
| Test cases |  |  |
| Maturity of reference implementation |  |  |
| Relative complexity |  |  |
| Support of MPAI use cases |  |  |
| Support of non-MPAI use cases |  |  |

**Content of the criteria table cells:**

Evaluation facts should mention:

1. Not supported / partially supported / fully supported.
2. What supported these facts: submission/presentation/demo.
3. The summary of the facts themselves, e.g., very good in one way, but weak in another.

Final assessment should mention:

1. Possibilities of improving or adding to the proposal, e.g., any missing or weak features.
2. How sure the experts are, i.e., evidence shown, very likely, very hard to tell, etc.
3. Global evaluation (Not Applicable/ --/ - / + / ++)

**New Use Cases/Requirements Identified:**

(please describe)

**Evaluation summary:**

1. **Main strong points, qualitatively:**
2. **Main weak points, qualitatively:**
3. **Overall evaluation:** (0/1/2/3/4/5)

0: could not be evaluated

1: proposal is not relevant

2: proposal is relevant, but requires significant more work

3: proposal is relevant, but with a few changes

4: proposal has some very good points, so it is a good candidate for standard

5: proposal is superior in its category, very strongly recommended for inclusion in standard

**Additional remarks:** (points of importance not covered above.)

The submission features in *Table 3* are explained in the following *Table 4*.

*Table 4 – Explanation of submission features*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Submission features** | **Criteria** |
| Completeness of description | Evaluators should   1. Compare the list of requirements (Annex C of the CfT) with the submission. 2. Check if respondents have described in sufficient detail to what part of the architecture their proposal refers to.   NB1: Completeness of a proposal for a Use Case is a merit because reviewers can assess that the components are integrated.  NB2: Submissions will be judged for the merit of what is proposed. |
| Understandability | Evaluators should identify items that are demonstrably unclear (incon­sistencies, sentences with dubious meaning etc.) |
| Adaptability | Evaluators should check if respondent specifies an execution envir­on­ment with its scope of applicability.  NB: Adaptability is synonymous of portability to different computati­onal frameworks. |
| Extensibility | Evaluators should check if respondent has proposed extensions to the use cases  NB: Extensibility is the capability of the proposed solution to support use cases that are not supported by current requirements. |
| Use of standard Technology | Evaluators should check if new technologies are proposed where widely adopted technologies exists. If this is the case, the merit of the new tech­nology shall be proved. |
| Efficiency | Evaluators should assess power consumption, computational speed, computational complexity, required TOPS |
| Test cases | Evaluators should report whether a proposal contains suggestions for testing the technologies proposed |
| Maturity of reference implementation | Evaluators should assess the maturity of the proposal.  NB1: Maturity is measured by the completeness, i.e., having all the necessary and appropriate parts of the HW/SW disclosed implementation with respect to the submitted proposal.  NB2: If there are parts of the implementation that are not disclosed but demonstrated, they will be considered if and only if such components are replicable. |
| Relative complexity | Evaluators should identify issues that would make it difficult to implement the proposal compared to the state of the art |
| Support of MPAI use cases | Evaluators should check how many use cases are supported in the submission |
| Support of non-MPAI use cases | Evaluators should check whether the technologies proposed can demonstrably be used in other significantly different use cases. |

# Annex C: Requirements check list

This list has been derived from the Requirements of N133 [1].

Please note the following acronyms

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| KB | Knowledge Base |
| QF | Query Format |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **UC** | **Technology** | **Description** |
| MQA | Digital Image | (un)compressed image |
| CWE | Digital Speech | PCM speech 22.05-96kHz/16-24 bit |
| MQA | Digital Speech | PCM speech 22.05-96kHz/16-24 bit |
| PST | Digital Speech | PCM speech 22.05-96kHz/16-24 bit |
| CWE | Digital Video | Digital Video |
| CWE | Emotion | Digital representation of emotion |
| CWE | Emotion KB (speech) QF | Provides emotion from speech features |
| CWE | Emotion KB (text) QF | Provides emotion from text features |
| CWE | Emotion KB (video) QF | Provides emotion from video features |
| MQA | Image features | Image features of object |
| MQA | Image KB QF | Provides object identifier |
| CWE | Input to speech synthesis | Plain text or concept |
| MQA | Intention | Information such as what, where, how |
| MQA | Intention KB QF | Provides Intention |
| PST | Language identification | Language identifier |
| CWE | Meaning | Information such as question, statement |
| MQA | Meaning | Information such as question, statement |
| MQA | Object identifier | Identifier of a physical object |
| MQA | Online dictionary QF | Provides paragraphs correlated with questions |
| CWE | Speech features | Speech features containing emotion info |
| PST | Speech features | Features of input speech |
| MQA | Text | Plain text |
| PST | Text | Plain text |
| CWE | Text features | Text features containing emotion info |
| CWE | Video features | Video features containing emotion info |

Respondent should consult the equivalent list in N131 [2]

**Annex D – Technologies that may require specific testing**

Image features

Input to speech synthesis

# Annex E: Mandatory text in responses

**A response to this MPAI-AIF is CfT shall mandatorily include the following text**

*<Company/Member>* submits this technical document in response to MPAI Call for Technologies for MPAI project MPAI-XYZ (MPAI document Nijk).

*<Company/Member>* explicitly agrees to the steps of the MPAI standards development process defined in Annex 1 to the MPAI Statutes, in particular *<Company/Member>* declares that  *<Com­pany/Member>* or its successors will make available the terms of the Licence related to its Essential Patents according to the Framework Licence of MPAI-XYZ (MPAI document Nmnp), alone or jointly with other IPR holders after the approval of the MPAI-XYZ Technical Specif­ication by the General Assembly and in no event after commercial implementations of the MPAI-XYZ Technical Specification become available on the market.

**In case the respondent is a non-MPAI member, the submission shall mandatorily include the following text**

If (a part of) this submission is identified for inclusion in a specification, *<Company>*  understands that  *<Company>* will be requested to immediately join MPAI and that, if  *<Company>* elects not to join MPAI, this submission will be discarded.

**Subsequent technical contribution shall mandatorily include this text**

*<Member>* submits this document to MPAI Development Committee XYZ as a contribution to the development of the MPAI-XYZ Technical Specification.

*<Member>* explicitly agrees to the steps of the MPAI standards development process defined in Annex 1 to the MPAI Statutes, in particular  *<Company>* declares that *<Company>* or its successors will make available the terms of the Licence related to its Essential Patents according to the Framework Licence of MPAI-XYZ (MPAI document Nmnp), alone or jointly with other IPR holders after the approval of the MPAI-XYZ Technical Specification by the General Assembly and in no event after commercial implementations of the MPAI-XYZ Technical Specification become available on the market.

1. Profile of a standard is a particular subset of the technologies that are used in a standard and, where applicable, the classes, subsets, options and parameters relevan for the subset [↑](#footnote-ref-1)