For the past two decades, the Video Services Forum has quietly made significant contributions to the world of media networking. Originally formed by a passionate group of video network providers, end users, and technology creators, the VSF membership currently comprises over 75 organizations that span across the full range of video transport applications, including WAN, LAN, and OTT. Pioneering work by the VSF in video transport over IP networks led to the development of standards such as SMPTE ST 2022 and ST 2110, as well as the widely deployed TR-01 specification for JPEG2K interoperability.

Today, the VSF continues to act as an incubator for new video transport technologies and quality measurement techniques, and is active in many emerging technology areas, including:

- **Reliable Internet Stream Transport (RIST)** provides an open protocol specification based on existing IETF RFCs and other standards for low-latency video transport of MPEG2 transport streams over the Internet, using the well-known ARQ (Automatic Repeat Query) technique for lost packet recovery. Published by the VSF in November 2018, TR-06-1 defines a Simple Profile of RIST that can be added to any video delivery solution using SMPTE ST 2022-1 to dramatically improve performance on networks with packet loss. Demonstrations of the next generation RIST Main Profile will occur during IBC 2019, supporting capabilities such as stream multiplexing, tunneling and encryption. A new version of TR-06 covering Main Profile is on track to be published in the next few months.

- **ST 2110 over Wide Area Networks (WAN)** deals with numerous challenges that occur when long distances separate remote video sources from production facilities. In particular, timing distribution, essence synchronization, flow security, and control architectures need to be addressed both for private networks and those that pass between different organizations.

- **JPEG Ultra-Low Latency (ULL)** extends the widely deployed TR-01 specification to support latencies below 1 frame end-to-end, important for remote production (REMI) applications. Ultra-High Definition (UHD), High Dynamic Range (HDR) and High Frame-Rate (HFR) video are now supported with 4K and higher image sizes, 120Hz frame rates, 12 bits-per-pixel, as well as advanced color primaries, transfer characteristics and matrix coefficients. The latest version of TR-01 was published in June 2018 and additional work to support JPEG XS is ongoing.

- **Interops, Plugfests and the IP Showcase Theatre** are co-sponsored and organized by the VSF, which provides personnel, facilities, and financial support. Interops and plugfests enable prototype testing, verifying whether specifications operate as designed and can be readily met before they are released. The IP Showcase provides a public forum at major media industry trade show such as IBC and NAB to promote interoperable media standards, including VSF Technical Recommendations.

Membership in the VSF is open to all types of organizations, both large and small. Dues are collected on an annual basis and vary based on company size. New members are entitled to a discounted trial membership in their first year. Members have free access to the VSF archives, including presentations from twenty years of meetings and conferences. Membership is required to participate in VSF Activity Groups, where teams meet regularly to define and refine cutting-edge Technical Recommendations. Many completed TRs from the VSF have been adopted as standards by SMPTE and other industry standards bodies.

The annual VidTrans conference and exhibition is normally held each year in late February. Members receive special admission discounts and discounted booth rates. In 2020, VidTrans will be held at the Marina del Rey Marriott in Los Angeles, CA on February 25-27. Two additional VSF meetings are typically held in May and October each year; these are free for anyone within member organizations to attend. The next meeting series is scheduled for October 14-15 in New York.

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