

PRESS RELEASE

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Video coding research recognized by ITU150 Award

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) recognized the video coding work that resulted in the H.264/MPEG-4 AVC and H.265/MPEG-H HEVC video coding standards as one of the most influential information and communication technologies (ICT) innovations of our time. Thomas Wiegand, Professor at TU Berlin and Executive Director of Fraunhofer Heinrich Hertz Institute, accepted on behalf of the team the prestigious ITU150 award at the ITU 150-year anniversary celebration event that took place on Sunday, 17 May, in Geneva.

This year the ITU celebrated its 150th Anniversary in Geneva, Switzerland. On this occasion, ITU awarded a special ITU150 Award to major contributors to the advancement of ICTs, including the renowned Microsoft founder Bill Gates, Robert Kahn the co-inventor of the TCP/IP protocols and Martin Cooper who has been referred to as the 'father' of portable cellular telephony.

ITU is the longest established United Nations specialized agency, founded on 17 May 1865 with the signing of the first International Telegraph Convention in Paris. The history of ITU is a story of international cooperation and shared success in coordinating the development and spread of cutting edge ICTs worldwide.

The **Fraunhofer Heinrich Hertz Institute** is a world leader in the development of mobile and fixed broadband communication networks and multimedia systems. From photonic components and systems through fiber optic sensor systems to video coding and transmission, the Fraunhofer HHI works together with its international partners from research and industry. www.hhi.fraunhofer.de

The Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft is the leading organization for applied research in Europe. Its research activities are conducted by 66 institutes and research units at locations throughout Germany. The Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft employs a staff of nearly 24,000, who work with an annual research budget totaling more than 2 billion euros. Of this sum, around 1.7 billion euros is generated through contract research. More than 70 percent of the Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft's contract research revenue is derived from contracts with industry and from publicly financed research projects. International collaborations with excellent research partners and innovative companies around the world ensure direct access to regions of the greatest importance to present and future scientific progress and economic development.