

THE MHP KNOWLEDGE PROJECT (MHP-KDB) is co-funded by the European Union as an IST project (Information Society Technology) within Framework Programme 6. Its duration is from December 2003 to November 2005.

Project partners:

- Institut für Rundfunktechnik GmbH, München, Germany (Co-ordinator)
- Bayerische Medien Technik, München, Germany
- Danish Broadcasting Corporation, Søborg, Denmark
- Deutsche Welle, Bonn, Germany
- Instituto Tecnológico de Aragón, Zaragoza, Spain
- Rundfunk Berlin-Brandenburg/ARD Digital Play Out Center, Potsdam, Germany
- Panasonic AVC Networks Germany GmbH, Peine, Germany
- Philips CE/STB, Suresnes, France
- Telenor, Fornebu, Norway
- tComLabs, Ghent, Belgium
- Universität Duisburg-Essen, ICB, Essen, Germany

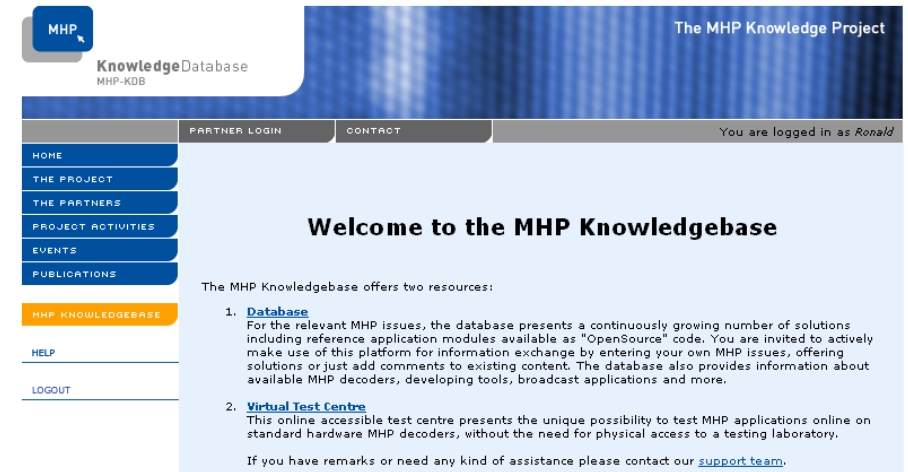
Please contact the project for information or feedback:

Email: info@mhpkdb.org
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The MHP Knowledge Database is online now!

A new knowledge-exchange community will increase MHP-interoperability



Since July 2005 the MHP Knowledge Database is available for online access to the whole MHP community via the MHP Knowledge Project website www.mhpkdb.org. All interested users from companies and organisations active in the field of MHP are invited to benefit from the knowledge offered and to actively use this new portal for information-exchange on interoperability issues and to optionally add relevant source code, free of charge.

For all upcoming MHP issues, the database presents a continuously growing number of solutions including reference application modules

as "OpenSource" code which are available to any MHP-developer for free usage. The know-how in the database addresses all components within the entire value chain of MHP-based applications and also contains public guidelines and recommendations on the usage of MHP.

The MHP-KDB portal also gives access to a "virtual test centre" which presents the unique possibility to test MHP applications online on standard hardware MHP decoders, without the need for physical access to a testing laboratory.

MHP-KDB boosts DVB-MHP



MHP-KDB is co-funded by the European Union (IST 507442)



The European MHP Knowledge Project

DVB-MHP¹ (Digital Video Broadcasting – Multimedia Home Platform) is the standard to bring about full interoperability and a truly open market in the interactive digital television arena. In order to actively support and accelerate MHP take-up throughout Europe and beyond, the MHP Knowledge Project was launched in December 2003. Initiated by core members of the MHP Alliance, the EC co-funded research project combines the competence of some of the Alliance's key players with that of notable partners from technology research.

By establishing the MHP Knowledge Database (MHP-KDB) the project set out to tackle one of the most pressing issues in the field of digital interactive television today: the interoperability of MHP implementations and applications. The knowledge database has been designed to store all questions and issues that arise during the process of developing MHP decoders and MHP applications in end-to-end system development.

The project has achieved and will further extend:

- A knowledge database on all relevant MHP issues.
- An online "virtual" test centre.
- Freely available reference application modules.
- Public guidelines and recommendations on the usage of MHP.

These results have been obtained in four steps.

Analysis

In its initial phase the project performed an analysis to determine the requirements for the following work. This analysis was based on both a technical and a market approach and covered a wide range of MHP aspects, amongst which:

- MHP implementations in STBs and IDTV sets
- Developing and using MHP play-outs and end-to-end architectures
- Developing and executing MHP applications
- IRT's interoperability workshops
- Experience from preparation and use of the DVB-MHP test-suites for STBs

The analysis was performed amongst the consortium partners who have gained experience in the field of various MHP developments for quite some years. As the partners come from various

industries, they represent a general and wide view of the MHP market.

Development of tools

Within the project a number of tools and supporting facilities have been created which help to gather and provide design-knowledge for creating, assessing, validating and testing MHP-based applications. They cover all the important aspects of the MHP-related value chain from content providers and broadcasters up to the TV end-user and back. MHP-KDB thus provides an infra-structure to be utilised for building up MHP knowledge. The actual database was configured according to the needs identified during the analysis phase.

The project planned the overall architecture of the knowledge database, provided appropriate server capacities plus management services and subsequently developed and implemented the database. Also, the project planned the structure of tools that were to be developed, defined how these tools fit into the database and how related results would be made accessible to the MHP-KDB users.

A crucial feature of this database is a portal providing online access to all relevant documents via the Internet as well as sophisticated access rules, which define related user-groups and access rights to the system via the portal. The aim is easy access – only a modest degree of control is imposed on the use of the project's facilities (database, tools and test facilities) in order to avoid their abuse.

MHP Knowledge

During the lifetime of the project, the knowledge about MHP-based applications and end-to-end architecture has been fed into the MHP-KDB in various forms, ranging from FAQs to precise guidelines and best practice solutions.

MHP applications running on MHP decoders are regarded as the most important aspect. Code fragments of different granularity (simple elements to entire benchmark applications) have been created in order to test applications for qualities like speed and usability and to demonstrate MHP functionalities. The code samples cover those areas that have been identified as particularly difficult or unclear during analysis.

The code fragments provide an essential input for the MHP-KDB as they facilitate the use of MHP in a standardised way. They allow an effective development process and evaluation of MHP-based applications.

Whereas it is certainly important to support different brandings for individual applications, harmonised ways to navigate through an application will help to avoid frustration in using such applications. The result of these developments is a large set of software components with related guidance on how they should be used.

Know-how Transfer

A vital goal of the MHP-KDB project is an effective transfer of the collected know-how to the entire MHP community. This will be achieved by promoting the use of the powerful database that is online now. It enables the user not only to get solutions on MHP issues but also to discuss questions and ideas with the whole community. Additional "Guidelines" and "best practice agreements" are and will be made available for various types of players in the MHP market such as application developers, broadcasters, decoder manufacturers and broadcast equipment

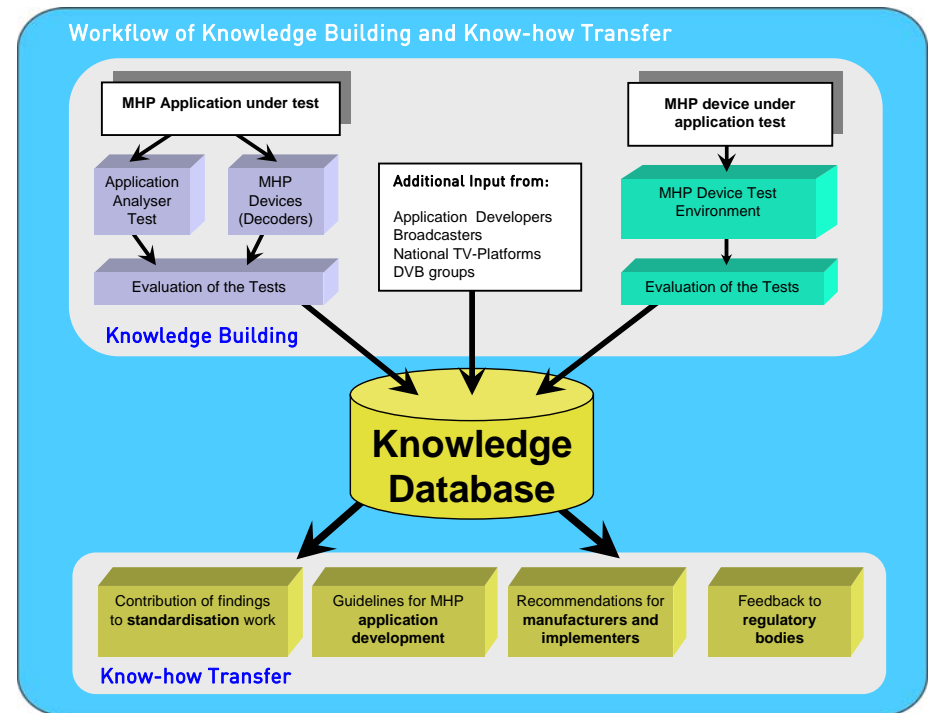
manufacturers.

In addition to the online portal, the project offers written publications, workshops, seminars and demonstrations. These dissemination actions aim at direct interaction with the various players in the market: the project offers them the specialised interoperability know-how, and conversely gets feedback from these contacts. During the lifetime of the project, the aspects of the MHP usage can thus continuously be monitored and adapted.

You're invited!

All companies and organisations active in the field of MHP are invited to benefit from and contribute to the new public MHP-KDB portal, to make interactive TV a broad success. Visit us at www.mhp-kdb.org!

**Demonstrated at IBC '05
booth 3.127**



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