

# EBU Technical Statement – D93-2002

## Conveyance of information defined by the P\_META Metadata Exchange Scheme in media file formats

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The EBU is considering an architecture for Metadata exchange, which consists of the three following layers:

- a Definitions Layer concerning the semantics of the information elements,
- a Technology Layer, which is concerned with the coding for storage and transmission of the attributes and sets specified by the Definitions Layer,
- a Data Interchange Layer, in which the applications reside exchanging the information that has been coded according to the technology selected in the Technology Layer.

For the Definitions Layer, the EBU has developed the “P\_META” descriptive metadata scheme <sup>[1]</sup> This scheme defines the semantic elements used for the purpose of exchanging programme-related metadata and content.

A number of file formats have been proposed to support storage and exchange of digitised media material, including the BWF <sup>[2]</sup> GXF <sup>[3]</sup> MXF <sup>[4]</sup> and AAF <sup>[5]</sup> formats. These formats have mechanisms to include metadata. It is expected that some of these formats will be adopted by EBU Members for storage, exchange and archival of programme material.

**The EBU requires** that any file format used in production and broadcast operations be:

- agnostic to the metadata scheme and, in particular,
- able to import, transport and export metadata from the EBU P\_META semantic scheme according to user and application requirements.

Satisfying these requirements will allow EBU Members to exchange combined metadata and essence flexibly and reliably between devices or systems, internally or with external parties where a combined exchange is beneficial for the application.

For example, the EBU intends to use the plug-in mechanism provided in the MXF Specification (Part 2 - Format) to carry P\_META data in an MXF file following proposed registration of the P\_META semantic scheme in SMPTE dictionaries. This will allow EBU members to exchange Metadata via MXF files in a way consistent with P\_META compliant Metadata conveyed by other means.

## Bibliography

- [1] EBU P\_META Descriptive Metadata Scheme V1.0 June 2002.  
[http://www.ebu.ch/tech\\_p\\_meta.html](http://www.ebu.ch/tech_p_meta.html)
- [2] EBU document Tech 3285-2001 Specification of the Broadcast Wave Format, A format for audio data files in broadcasting: Version 1
- [3] SMPTE 360M-2001 General Exchange Format (GXF)
- [4] Material eXchange Format, MXF information centre:  
<http://www.g-fors.com/mxf.htm> or <http://www.pro-mpeg.org/mxf.htm>  
Also under standardisation in SMPTE
- [5] AAF: Advanced Authoring Format, AAF:  
<http://www.aafassociation.org/>