Improving Interoperability Task Force: Interoperability Event Requirements

Introduction

A number of bodies in Europe organize from time-to-time HbbTV Interoperability Events and sometimes wish that their event is run in partnership with the HbbTV Association, such partnerships potentially including a financial contribution from the HbbTV Association to the cost of the event.

HbbTV Association is very supportive of the organization, by relevant European bodies, of the HbbTV Interoperability Events and is also willing to continue and optimize its support to such events.

HbbTV is willing to select on a yearly basis a certain number of HbbTV Interoperability Events (indicatively; between 3 and 5 per year) which will be supported by HbbTV and become Partner Interoperability Events.

Partner Interoperability Event Objectives and General Format:

The main goal is to facilitate application and device interoperability testing for HbbTV and related technologies including HbbTV apps, content, broadcast services and DVB technology (e.g., UHD, DVB-I).

Ideally the event will see new and under-development apps and services tested against new and under-development devices, via 1-1 meetings of at least 45 min per slot, happening in a central location physically co located over a two day minimum period.

HbbTV Interop Technical Requirements:

The host should provide local cabled broadcast and IP distribution where you may combine appropriate local on-air satellite and terrestrial broadcasting, and broadband services, with off-air services that may be provided from developers. These off-air services may be provided via a transport stream file or IP transport protocol, and/or by multiplexed 'generic' local services carrying application URLs from attendees.

Note that IP connectivity needs to be available to reach outside the facility and must not blocked. Wi-Fi should be available as a guest network and able to support the number of participants comfortably. Note that some devices may be Wi-Fi only without wired connectivity, and some may only have wired IP connectivity.

Providing some local modulators so that transport streams provided by developers can be launched is helpful.

The exact numbers/types of equipment and scale of cabling will depend on the location, the facility layout and on participants own requirements, so it is not possible to provide an exact prediction.

Logistical Requirements:

- Large room(s) for attendees 25-35 people plus some large TVs
- Food daily: breakfast buffet, lunch, coffee and tea, snacks available
- 2 full days minimum. Longer is OK but see note below about Test Events.
- Good access to major travel hub (near a major airport or with very good connections to one)
- Shipping support and storage facilities for devices to be sent in advance and returned after the event.
- Demonstrable ability to attract attendance from at least 2-3 representatives from both the following constituencies:
    - Major HbbTV broadcast app developers in region – in particular if these broadcast app developers usually to not travel outside their home territory
    - Major HbbTV CEs with market share in region

Personnel Requirements:

- Event Coordinator to manage schedule, registrations, reporting, relations with HbbTV Association, etc. – available before, during and immediately afterwards for attendees to contact
- IT support
- Admin/Logistics support for shipping (at CEM cost), reception, access to site, refreshments

Scheduling Requirements

Ideally HbbTV prefers such events to arranged in concert with an HbbTV Test Event (described below).

Ideally these take place 3 times a year towards the end of Q1 (Feb/March), Q2 (June/July) and Q3 (September/October).

Please discuss your planned schedule with the IITF and Testing Group to avoid conflicts with other known events and maximise potential attendance and minimise unnecessary duplication and travel.

Go Decision / Acceptance criteria

Criteria are generally open, and an evaluation group can make some judgement that the event warrants funding, and how much funding to provide.

Suppliers should not commit any costs on behalf of HbbTV prior to confirmation from HbbTV that it will co-fund an event, and payment will only be made for well attended events that go ahead.

Upon confirmation, HbbTV will start to publicise the event.

Post event requirements:

HbbTV requires a summary report on activities which should be anonymised but with attendees traceable by the host organiser via ID for follow up questions.

The report should cover broad information on attendance, HbbTV app versions and features explored and particularly any issues identified. Provide detailed information on the likely causes, how many devices or apps affected, were related tests passed by device? Recommended actions, specification and test case references increase the likelihood of HbbTV being able to action a mitigation...

A feedback form/survey on the event to gauge its success and any learnings for the future will be issued by HbbTV after the event closes.

Event organizer will be invited to present the event report in an IITF meeting.

Event coordinator shall receive and dispatch the inquiries and contact requests made by IITF members on anonymised aspects of the report.

HbbTV Test Event Requirements

HbbTV Association considers an adjacent HbbTV Test Event highly desirable. The Test Event is typically not attended by all Interop attendees and is HbbTV members only. Its objective is to facilitate running HbbTV Test Material on devices to approve and accept it for release in the Test Suite. Therefore, it does not have quite the same requirements for live stream playout, although it would be beneficial to be able to reuse the same facility right through the week.

- Large room for 10-20 people plus at least 10 TVs
  - It may be required that private rooms can be made available for CEMs with devices that are not in the market yet as it is particularly sensitive when competitors are present
- Internet connectivity as for interop events; Wi-Fi to support the attendees and decent conference capability to support remote participants dialling in and hearing the full TG discussion
- 2-2 ½ days is required for the Testing Event. If co-located with TG event recommend max 1 full week duration
- The Tests are executed via an HbbTV Test Harness, and software and licences are available on request from a small selection of test harness providers to TG members
- A small supply of Dektec USB modulators from the host would be useful

Other considerations

'Virtual' extensions either side of the physical event may be useful but are optional at the discretion of Host and the HbbTV Testing Group.

Commercial and Marketing terms

- Free to HbbTV members
- Charging a reasonable fee to non-members is acceptable. Other arrangements with stakeholders e.g. local organisations co-supporting the event, should be made clear to HbbTV
- HbbTV to be invoiced when HbbTV is delivered the post event report
- 60-day payment period
- HbbTV will be designated as co-host or sponsor of Partner Interoperability Event and will co-brand the Event (with their respective logos)

- Partner Interoperability Event will be advertised and promoted by host and HbbTV Association to their respective audiences
- HbbTV Association will be authorized to use and reproduce in its public web site any marketing data related to the event (date, announcement, location, program, etc.)
- HbbTV Association will be able to reproduce and make available to its members only the event report (IITF working group)

Sponsorship Budget

HbbTV Association has a limited yearly budget to provide a limited financial contribution to selected Partner Interoperability Events (typical contributions will be a few thousand euros per event, depending on the size and complexity of the event).

Application and Further Information

Please contact [admin@hbbtv.org] for further information and to apply for sponsorship of an upcoming event.

HbbTV reserves the right to select one or more host for upcoming events, or no host, if terms are not acceptable. The schedule for events will be posted at [link to events calendar].