

ISDCF Main Meeting Notes – December 3, 2025
In person at Universal and Zoom
Joint meeting with EDCF

Upcoming Meetings

Thursday January 15, 2026 10am In person at Universal/ Zoom

Wednesday March 18, 2026 10am TBD/ Zoom



Part 1: General Reporting

Housekeeping:

- Zoom meeting (provided by ISDCF)
- Set next meeting dates (above).
- Thank you ISDCF for support of the Chairman.
- Meeting notes from October 22, 2025 Not discussed, but will be posted to open website

- Legal reminder / press reminder / Antitrust Disclaimer. The official antitrust guidelines are posted on our website and are linked from the main ISDCF page. Please no social media for discussions held at ISDCF.

InterSociety Board:

President: Steve LLamb

VP: Reiner Doetzkies

Secretary / Treasurer: Mark Waterston

Executive Director: Jerry Pierce - and chairman ISDCF

Bookkeeper: Michelle Hurst

Members: Susie Beiersdorf, Mark Collins, Sean Romano, Mark Waterston, Kirk Griffins, Mike Radford

NOTE: Corporate invoices for 2026 will be coming out in December 2025. Individual invoices will be issued in January.

NOTE: If you are interested in joining the board there will be elections end of year. There are two current board members who reached the end of their 3 year term so these will require a vote. We plan to hold a corporate members only meeting the evening of January 14, 2026 - location probably Deluxe ITC in Burbank.

InterSociety financial status: We have about \$15K in bank which should be good for the end of the year. 22 corporations have paid. 16 individuals have paid.

ISDCF LinkedIn account has been more active. We encourage participation and cross promotion.

Attendance is at end of these notes.

Action Items from December 3, 2025

1. Continue the discussion for End of Life/ End of Support and Support Period at next meeting. Should we post something as a reference for purchasers?
2. Revisit a possible energy document at next meeting.
3. Any manufacturer with a training program that they would be willing to share should reach out to ICTA/Frank Tees to add to an on-line resource.
4. Make sure there is a link to MPA cybersecurity resources on the ISDCF website.
5. Post to the ISDCF discussion list the formation of the BYOD working group and invitation to participate.

6. Reminder that we need to lobby SMPTE to make the standards out of behind the paywall.
7. Jerry/Pierre to go through the issues in the GitHub registries and see if some can be archived.
8. Assemble 4 short unencrypted test DCP for quick test of theater image and sound set up. (scope 5.1, scope 7.1, flat 5.1, flat 7.1)

Meeting Preambles:

Welcome from Guillaume (Executive Director EDCF) and Steve LLamb (President of Intersociety).

We welcome the members of EDCF and if this goes well we should expect more of these. Once a quarter? Twice a year? Let's see how it goes!

Introduction to meeting style and the hope that we will alternate between Guillaume and Jerry for leadership.

Big Picture Items:

CERT Expiration:

At the last meeting we were very fearful that some Doremi/Dolby servers would "brick" due to expiring certs. It didn't happen!! REALLY GOOD NEWS!! The message got out, users were able to upgrade their devices and we had minimal problems. Good job Dolby!! (And all others that help get the message out!)

Call out to Deluxe and CinemaUnited for getting the message out!

A reminder to other manufacturers: if you are aware of expiring certs you should get the message out as early as possible! Dolby started 2 years before the expiration date and successfully avoided a problem. The suggestion was for manufacturers to post upcoming issues with products - as early as possible!

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Arts Alliance

It was noted that AAM had entered a new phase of life:

[Arts Alliance Media](https://celluloidjunkie.com/2025/11/21/arts-alliance-media-enters-administration-but-dont-write-its-obituary-yet/) (AAM), one of the cinema industry's most widely deployed and quietly indispensable software providers, entered administration in the United Kingdom on 12 November 2025. This move begins a restructuring process, similar to Chapter 11 bankruptcy in the United States, that could reshape the global theatre management system (TMS) landscape. The company is continuing to operate while administrators seek a buyer — a situation that has generated both understandable concern and a surprising amount of optimism across the industry.

<https://celluloidjunkie.com/2025/11/21/arts-alliance-media-enters-administration-but-dont-write-its-obituary-yet/>

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Avatar III / trailers and test content

We understand the Avatar has issued test content, but it is KDM locked and can't play at this time.

There was Avatar 2 test content distributed a while ago and released for testing for Avatar 3. It was keyed to confirm all features worked. Disney assured that keys for the test content would be easily available.

Note that Avatar 3 file sizes are significantly larger than most other movies. The bit rate can be as high as 450mbps - 4K/3D and a long run time! For example the Dolby Vision version is 700GB!

Also note that the feature is well mixed for reference playback. (Don't play it back lower levels.)

Hot topics / focus on topics of interest to EDCF

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Legacy Equipment

Concern about equipment at end of life / end of support that may have problems playing back content. In particular we have seen some of the older equipment exhibiting playback errors that we believe is due to the JPEG2000 decoder in the hardware. There are some

issues with security issues with some of the older models of hardware. BUT the MPA (who is conducting the studies) can not share the details of security issues.

There is a group meeting about once a month in LA that is addressing the playback issues of JPEG2000 content. They have been able to resolve some of these issues either with software updates or bitstream evaluation. There is still one outstanding (internally referred to as the “unbalanced” issue) that is still a mystery. When we experience this problem it is on a very wide set of players (25-30% of installed base). But it only seems to occur on 4K content. We have only seen 3-4 instances and most of those were caught in QC prior to release. Bottom line: hard to find but if it escapes into the wild it can be a real problem.

The issue of security is very problematic since you don’t want an open discussion of vulnerabilities (even though security through obscurity is a false security). There is a need to have detail discussions in a secure and protected space. There is a strong need to find a way to how to hold these discussions. The concern is that some systems may be deemed unsafe to continue to received high value content and be excluded from getting new content and this may be without warning. Exhibitors are concerned that they need to be aware of issues in a timely fashion. For example, Disney has informed exhibition of some systems that are being excluded from distribution of Avatar (and future Disney content).

To know if your system is compliant the first place to go is the DCI website with approved systems and firmware version. If your system is not on this list, there may be a problem. The problem seems to be mainly for older legacy equipment (but not necessarily).

The concern is that some hardware manufacturers may make software versions for specific non-theatrical applications (like a mastering house) and these would not be suitable for movie distribution.

For manufacturers: you can submit new software for testing without having to re-start a full test sequence on hardware by looking at <https://documents.dcimovies.com/CTP/release/1.4.3/#sec-11-2-4>

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Hardware Support / Lifecycle

What is the expectation for hardware support for equipment? In the old days (35mm equipment) could last 20-30 years. The expectation for Digital Cinema equipment seems to be much less (10 year?) Without a clear expectation it makes it very difficult for exhibitors to plan their capital investments. The issue is really that there is a shorter time between

end of life and end of service. In the consumer market the EU has a “right to repair” for consumer for a 10 year timespan between end of life and end of service. In discussions in the EU some feel this is a reasonable expectation for the cinema market.

On the flip side, one manufacturer was frustrated by users asking for parts for 30 year old speakers.

Definitions for this discussion*:

End of Life (EoL): when a product is no longer being produced / manufactured

End of Last Sale: When the last product has been sold from stock of the manufacturer

End of Service (EoS): When a product no longer is being supported by a manufacturer (no software updates, no possible hardware repairs)

Support Period: Time between End of Life and End of Service

* Each manufacturer may have slightly different definition of these terms or use different terms.

Is there value for publishing what the expectation for how long time between End of Life and End of Service. The Support Period of 10 years? There is a desire to assist purchasers of equipment to have a clear understanding of what to expect for the Support Period and ask the manufacturer for their warrantee or commitment for the Support Period for a particular product.

There was some objection of trying to “standardize” the definitions of EoL, EoS, etc. The general opinion was we are not defining these terms, but need a way to help in open discussions.

In the EU there may be legislation, but there is no equivalent in the US.

ISDCF/EDCF could describe our understanding of the issues and what a purchaser should be aware of and to help them plan their capital expenditures.

We should revisit this at the next meeting to see where this could go.

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Energy Efficiency

EU has energy efficiency very high on the agenda for a few years now. EDCF had a discussion at their last conference. Jan provided an update on what was discussed.

Laser projectors are a big improvement in energy efficiency and they are moving to look at audio equipment, particularly the class A/B amplifiers to replace with class D amplifiers. Looking at recommended practice for shut down theaters (night time) and the sequencing for on/off of certain equipment. How to automate the shut down/power up to safely make the transitions.

Some amplifiers don't have a power on/off easily accessible for users. Some aftermarket solutions have "safe" solutions for power up sequencing.

The industry needs open and public APIs for power control of devices. Some manufacturers provide automatic power-down when there is no audio signal.

Some of the spec sheets don't highlight the energy features of products. Of course, more efficient devices are the first step in reducing energy consumption.

Is there a need for a discussion document for these products? This could be a paper discussing what should be evaluated. Maybe from UNIC/CinemaUnited to help exhibitors understand what should be evaluated when making purchasing decisions. This could be something that groups like ISDCF/EDCF could make a draft document to describe the pain points and upcoming concerns.

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EPIC PLF system - Barco HDR systems

New screens based on the Barco Light Steering HDR systems are being introduced to Europe. A number of titles have been mastered for this format. FYI only.

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Training / Certification

There continue to be efforts to gather on-line training opportunities for our industry. The effort is called "CinemaTrain."

ICTA has been leading these efforts. They hope manufacturers can share / help get these in a centralized location. Someday there may be an opportunity for a certification program. ICTA / Frank Tees is a good starting point for these efforts.

There is a plan to have EDCF tour on the Thursday/Friday prior to CinemaCon.

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CyberSecurity Topics

One theater complex in Indiana was attacked by ransomware and was forced to stop operations for a few days. It remains of interest to the industry, but has not been discussed in enough detail. We are not sure ISDCF is the place to have these discussions. We should have a link to MPA cybersecurity resources on our website.

Here is the list of cybersecurity-related issues flagged by UNIC Technology Group members:

- > Access from third party entities and network separation: Are remote accessible devices, routers, or other service vendors and projector manufacturers up to date and is the network secure?
- > With increasingly more equipment being networked, some cinemas might not have their networks separated enough, especially also considering boxes/devices for content delivery.
- > Security and update of e-delivery servers, such as Deluxe, Gofilex, which are connected to network and TMS and on their delivery network.
- > Operating system software patching: Most equipment is based on a Linux OS but they are rarely, if ever, updated and patched.
- > Firewalls: Everyone has firewalls but are they properly configured and updated?
- > Wifi connections: Most of the new equipment is wifi-enabled but often with simple/limited security
- > USB devices: Although most content and KDM deliveries are now networked, there are still some that are being delivered on USB devices (Hard disk and Thumb drives). They impose a risk of both virus and malware.
- > Projector and server equipment, DCP cinema servers, TMS servers: are they vulnerable to malware?

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Audio

ISDCF Audio Test Content is posted on the ISDCF website for testing non-perf (LED) screens.

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BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) updates

ISDCF held a “plugfest” with many vendors of new BYOD apps for demonstration with studios and ISDCF members. It was an opportunity for these small companies to meet each other and have fruitful discussions. (January 2025)

We are still trying to decide what the next steps should be for this effort. There is an effort underway with CinemaFoundation to help in creating common deliverables from studios to the companies. ISDCF has started an effort to discuss requirements. It’s taking some time to get going...

To note, things are changing rapidly in the area of AI for real time translation and presentation to devices/eyeglasses. Things will be different in a year! Look at the eyeglasses from Google. But this is not a full solution since there are those that use the visual description track.

AirCaps Smart Glasses

Lightweight AR smart glasses with built-in display that shows captions, translations, captures notes, and helps in meetings.

~~\$599~~ **\$499**

★★★★★ 4.8 (127)

Two areas need focus: 1) what deliverable types / could there be one set 2) what does the application vendor need to present to user. We have a small group working to get these lists together.

If you are interested in working on this, contact Jerry and he will link you with the small group working this. We should post this on the discussion list.

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SMPTE Standards

Steve LLamb has been working on a front-end to the SMPTE registry to allow us to get to the standards. SMPTE and what ever is needed to make things work. <https://msrbot.io/>
<https://github.com/PrZ3r/MSRBot.io>

These include direct links to the actual documents and we hope at some point in time the actual documents will show up. Not only will this help us all find documents, we think it will help improve AI in their search to help make AI searches more accurate. Steve is looking for feedback on making it more useful.

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On screen rendering

Current systems are not rendering some text, mainly vertical asian fonts, in a consistent way. In fact, some are downright bad (hard to read with overlaps). The solution may be a better specification. Implementation would take years and it hasn't started yet. There does not seem to be sufficient interest in solving this problem, so no one is working on it.

The current solution is to burn in the text or png delivery solution since you can't rely on the subtitle systems today.

One industry insider said it best: If you want subs, use the timed text. If you want them to look good, use .png. If you want them to look perfect, burn them in.

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Website and IT updates Naming Convention

Minor changes made to the facility / studio registration form.

There are a number of issues in the registry that should be concluded. If you have one issue on the list that needs addressing, please contact Jerry / Pierre.

We get about 200 registries / changes per year.

All good. Business as usual.

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LIPA

Updated discussion on mesmerism being conducted.

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DCI Update

No updates.

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SMPTE / TC36

Ballot underway for RP200 - sound document.

Revision immersive audio (mainly for IMF).

A number of chair changes to the committees

TC36 changes. Andy Maltz is stepping down from chairman of TC36. ISDCF may help on the IT side of the US TAG for TC36.

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ICTA

ICTA is planning to organize a newsletter. ISDCF would like to help.

Presentations being made at CineAsia.

LA Seminar Series - January 12-14, 2026 - registration at ICTA-web.com

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Vendor Updates

MIT has acquired all digital cinema speaker assets of QSC. Not only stock, but production IP as well. Just the speaker line, now called DCS. The amplifiers stay with QSC.

Action Items from October 22, 2025

1. Get the message out that many Doremi/Dolby systems need to be updated (**done!**)
2. Hold next meeting as a joint EDCF/ISDCF to share information and topics (**held**)
3. Write open letter to SMPTE to encourage making standards more open. Ask other companies to sign on. (**Still needed**)
4. Assemble 4 short unencrypted test DCP for quick test of theater image and sound set up. (scope 5.1, scope 7.1, flat 5.1, flat 7.1) (**Still needed**)

Attendance on last page.