

# Minutes of PRSG Meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> August 2013 at IIT Madras

**Title of the project:** Enhancements & Roadmap to Aakash Platform

**Date:** 24/08/2013

**Time:** 14.30 – 15.00

**Venue:** IC&SR, IIT Madras

## **Committee Members:**

Timothy A Gonsalves, IIT Mandi

Uday B Desai, IIT Hyderabad (co-opted)<sup>1</sup>

Rajat Moona (through Video Conference), C- DAC, Pune

G. Venkatesh (through Video Conference), IIT Madras and Sasken

## **Project Coordinator:**

Ashok Jhunjhunwala, IIT Madras

## **Project Staff:**

Rishikeshlal Babu Subramanian Ramiya, TCoE, IIT Madras

### **I. Presentation:**

The objective of this project was to understand the enhancement path for Aakash IV by evaluating and improving Aakash II with respect to: performance, usability, user-friendliness, serviceability and upgradability aspects that need to be focused at in parallel to maximize the potential of the tablet. Also based on the report generate recommendations for Aakash IV.

- Mr Rishikeshlal Babu, TCoE, IIT Madras highlighted the enhancement path for Aakash from version II to IV with respect to performance, usability, user-friendliness, serviceability, upgradability aspects
- Presentation covered aspects on the performance evaluation proposed for the tablet and descriptions of the corresponding key performance indices (such as the Basic Processing Power, Video Output, User Input, Audio Input/output, Database Operation etc) that are to be accounted for towards the same, in the current and forthcoming versions of the tablet.
- The discussions also drew a comparison between versions 2 and 4 of the tablet; threw light on the tests on various candidate Aakash 4 tablets whose scores have been compared to that of Aakash 2.
- Test setup has been created to test tablets for functional and performance evaluation including testing GSM connectivity using controllable GSM base stations available at IITM. For example, frequency response of speaker and microphone present in the Aakash IV candidate tablet can be evaluated using the test setup created.

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<sup>1</sup> In view of his relevant expertise, Prof. Uday B. Desai (Director, IIT-Hyderabad and Professor, Electrical Engg) was co-opted.

- Aakash IV specification has been approved by the Department of Electronics and Information Technology(Deity)
- Proposed to undertake testing of Aakash IV candidate tablets participating in the tender as future work.
- **Accounts of the current usage of funds were presented.**

Out of the total funds of Rs 25 Lakhs sanctioned, a mobilisation advance of Rs 7.5 Lakhs was obtained and a sum of Rs. 9.73 Lakhs (including commitments in August and expenditure till July 2013) has been spent. The project is awaiting the further release of funds.

## II. Discussions

1. Prof Desai asked whether the Aakash II tablet performance was compared to commercially available tablets. It was pointed out that Samsung tablets- versions costing about Rs 7,000 was also tested and the performance was about 40% lower.
2. Prof Gonsalves asked about the touch and feel and battery life. Mr Rishikesh presented mechanisms developed to test such features.
3. Mr Rajat Moona asked whether the test set up are ready for transfer. Mr Rishikesh pointed out that more set ups were needed.
4. Prof Desai asked the rationale of using Bluetooth. Mr Rishikesh in this regard highlighted some of its advantage over Wi Fi; where for instance it can allow the tablet to connect to a printer, keyboard, mouse, headset, audio system, remote SIM access, other wireless devices including Aakash tablets for file transfer, etc., which cannot be achieved through WIFI.

## III. Recommendations

The work done in the project was found satisfactory. The committee recommends immediate release of remaining balance of Rs 17.5 Lakhs. Since the funds have been extended, the committee has recommends an extension of the project by one more year.

– signed –  
Prof. T.A. Gonsalves  
Chair, PRSG  
10/9/2013