Digitisation of VHS-tapes

Questions and Answers -

6 September 2019:
- Are all the tapes in PAL format?
  - RDL: Yes, all tapes are standard PAL.

- We noted the audio timestamps problems. Do you know what percentage of the collection it might affect?
  - RDL: We estimate that 10% of the tapes have this audio timestamp problem.

- Regarding audio, do you know if Linear audio tracks or/and FM audio tracks are used?
  - RDL: The tapes are supposedly AFM Hi-Fi Stereo, but the reason for the timestamp problem is probably a lack of uniformity in production.

- If Linear tracks are present, are they Mono or Stereo?
  - RDL: See the above answer.

- Would it be possible to send us a tape with the audio timestamps issue so that we could see and test what we could do?
  - RDL: Yes, all potential suppliers can have a tape sent, but please note that the tape is a part of our collection and must be handled as such, and returned safely.

- We have noted that the transfer to RDL must be done using FTP/SFTP. As the bandwidth to transfer all files to RDL may require a very high bandwidth, could you detail us the bandwidth that would be available at RDL to retrieve the files?
  - RDL: The available bandwidth is minimum 1 Gb/s.

18 September 2019:
- Looking at your further documentation 'Tender Conditions' there is mention of a possible extension on the tender submission date which currently stands as the 26th of September. Is that something we can formally request now?
  - RDL: The tender submission date is 23rd of September, 14:00 CEST. We have currently no plans for an extension, but we will let you know if that changes.

- How would the RDL like to track progress?
  - RDL: Through meetings between project managers, and of course deliveries to RDL.

- Do the RDL intent to implement project / production tracking documentation?
  - Suppliers can suggest a tool or a process.

- Do the tapes contain normal or hifi audio tracks or both? If the tapes have HiFi audio would that be the audio to capture over normal?
    - RDL: The tapes are supposedly AFM Hi-Fi Stereo, but the reason for the timestamp problem is probably a lack of uniformity in production.

- Regarding req. 1.7.1: . Is there any movement on the delivery deadline?
    - RDL: All deliveries must be complete on RDL servers in 2019. It is possible that our QA of the last delivery can be done beginning of January 2020.

- Regarding req. 1.7.1: There is a contradiction as below taken from the draft contract: 7. Time schedule 2019 The assignment for 2019 will commence in Q3 2019 and the contract will run for 3 years hereafter.
    - RDL: This passage has now been removed from the draft contract.

- Regarding req. 1.1.1: Will RDL be expecting any element for tape cleaning?
    - RDL: No.

- Regarding req. 1.1.1: Do you have any idea of percentage of tapes with unwanted time stamps?
    - RDL: We estimate that 10% of the tapes have this audio timestamp problem.

- Regarding req. 1.1.1: Are you able to elaborate on the nature of the content?
    - RDL: The tapes contain Danish flow tv.

- Regarding req. 1.1.1: What is the genre of content?
    - RDL: Danish Broadcast

- Regarding req. 1.1.2: Under what conditions should we not proceed to ingest and VHS tape?
    - RDL: If the tape breaks.

- Regarding req. 1.1.2c: Regarding the audio and video level. Do you have a technical reference that should be adhered to?
    - RDL: No.

- Regarding req. 1.1.2d: Do you require drop out analysis via a standalone drop out counter such as Shebasoku tools.
    - RDL: We expect the supplier to specify and use their usual tool for drop out analysis for both picture and sound.

- Regarding req. 1.1.2e: In regards to audio what specifications are we to work to?
    - RDL: We want the digitisation to be as close to the original as possible. We expect no sound processing during or after the digitisation.

- Regarding req. 1.1.3: We assume overscan to be a monitoring setting. Are you able to elaborate on using overscan as an ingest setting?
    - RDL: By digitising in overscan mode the whole picture will be present and edge artifacts avoided.

- Regarding req. 1.1.4: Do the RDL know if any of the assets contain black before the start of content. Should the black come from tape or be generated during encode or transcode?
    - RDL: Some might but the majority will not. The black screen may be added in an analogue or a digital way.

- Regarding req. 1.2.4: To accommodate a minor drop out in a single sequence we will assume that deep dive AQC analysis will be required. Do the RDL have any other video/audio essence test templates that may be required?
    - RDL: No. Supplier may suggest appropriate software.

- Regarding req. 1.3.2: Should this [report] be human readable or machine readable?
    - RDL: Human readable

- Regarding req. 1.4.2: Will RDL consider an industry standard accelerated protocol delivery interface such as Signiant to Aspera? We feel this will reduce any potential corruption in flight.
    - RDL: No. We are confident that the transfer protocols specified will keep corruption at a minimum.

- Regarding req. 1.4.3: Are you able to elaborate on size of ingested media delivery batches in data volume?
    - RDL: If the digitised files from a single tape is 10 GB, we would expect a batch to contain 150-250 tapes e.g. up to 2,5 TB.

- Regarding req. 1.5.2: Are we able to collect all 5177 VHS tapes in 1 collection? If not how many consignments do you envisage?
    - RDL: After completing the test run to the satisfaction of RDL, it will be possible to collect the rest of the tapes.

- Regarding req. 1.5.5h: Back up of data is kept for at least 60 days. Can you please elaborate of your QC and sign of process leading to permitting us to delete the supplied media?
    - RDL: No, we cannot elaborate on that issue.

- Regarding req. 1.6.7: Will RDL supply all materials with a digital inventory list. Will each tape have a unique identifier number or a barcode?
    - RDL: Yes, each tape has a barcode, and will be supplied with an inventory list specifying in which box a specific tape belongs. RDL expects the tapes to be returned in the same order.