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## **Rationale for TSG-698r1: Amendment to ATSC Digital Television Standard, Doc. A/53E Annex A**

TSG-698r1 was developed in conjunction with SMPTE and the CEA as part of ATSC's ongoing standards coordination activities. It addresses a number of errors in ATSC's specification of Active Format Description (AFD) and bar data.

This Amendment to A/53E Annex A brings the document into alignment with the AFD and bar data work being undertaken concurrently by the SMPTE and CEA. The only changes are to semantics, not syntax. One new constraint is added, and that is that only one pair of bar data may be sent. Also, an implied constraint has been made explicit; this is that AFD must be sent in `extension_and_user_data(2)`; that is, at the picture level. This is consistent with ATSC practice for other video user data, but differs from DVB practice.

The equivalent SMPTE documents are now in ballot; the CEA document was approved recently. As the documents all reference each other, it is essential that they all move forward through their respective approval processes together.