

MPEG-4 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

The following are some Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's) relating to the MPEG-4 transition. For more specific details, please review the Transition to MPEG-4 information on our website.

Will the QT Plus Transmodulator models SCT-4860 and the SCT-2860 be compatible with F1R and F2 signals after the conversion?

- SCT-4860 will be compatible for the F1R and F2 conversion. However, the customer should be aware that when we drop the MPEG-2 SDs they may have to go (if they take the SDs that are being dropped) to G1 to get the HD version which the SCT-4860 is not compatible. The bandwidth from a G1 transponder will not fit down a 256 QAM pipe.
- SCT-2860 will not be compatible with F1R and F2 as the signals are transitioned.

Will the DCX-525 be compatible with MPEG-4 for QT Plus?

- The DCX-525 will work in MPEG-4.

Today we use line 21 of the video track MPEG-2 to get closed captioning. This line 21 is present only in the specs of the MPEG-2 codec and does not exist in MPEG-4. How will we broadcast closed captioning in the future when all channels have migrated from MPEG-2 to MPEG-4?

- As per Government Regulations we are obligated to pass close captioning, if it is available from the programmer, in the MPEG-4 environment whether it is an MPEG-4 HD service or MPEG-4 SD service. For SD it will be provided on Line 21 just like MPEG-2 SD.

We get our QT Plus data on F1R T26 – will that still be there?

- The QT+ Out-of-Band data control signal will remain on F1R T26 but the modulation will change from QPSK to 8PSK.

Is there any preference in DSRs - DSR-4410MD, DSR-4440 or DSR-4460?

- Please visit our website to determine which of the above DSRs will work in the setup of your head end or contact ARRIS.
- The DSR-4440 will work for QT+ Out-of-Band Data Control Signal and is the least expensive option.

DCT HD boxes – will these have any functionality when the transition begins in April 2017, or do we have to have all our customers on DCX boxes by that date?

- DCT HD boxes will work for SD until they are transitioned to MPEG-4 or dropped in Phase 3 and only the HD version of the signal is available. However, at the end of Phase 1 in October 2017 the majority of the HD signals will no longer work with these receivers.

Map changes – Are there any limitations to revising the Shaw Broadcast Standard maps?

- As long as the changes are agreed upon by all users of that specific standard map, there are no other limitations.

Is the MPEG-4 plan for Shaw to build all transponders to 8PSK--2/3 @ 20.5 Msym/s, including the HD multiplexes? Or will some transponders end up similar to G1 and F1R T1 which are 45 Mbps transport and require programs to be filtered in order to fit in the 38.81 Mbps 256QAM 6MHz channel which requires the Drake MEQ1000 / SDM1000 solution?

- The plan is to have all transponders on F1R and F2 run 8PSK--2/3 @ 20.5 Msps. F1R T1 will remain at around 45Mbps.

A DSR 4400MD can only decode MPEG-2, but it can decrypt a whole multiplex to ASI independently of the video codec. We are trying to decrypt the signal to ASI only (not decoding on the analog output). The spec sheet for the DSR 4400MD confirms this should work?

- In this particular case the DSR 4400MD will not work because we are in the 8PSK modulation environment when we migrate to MPEG-4. The DSR 4400MD could decrypt the MPEG-4 services but because of the Modulation (8PSK) it won't work.