

# TANDBERG SOLUTIONS

## SIP:

*Why is it so important?*



### What is Session Initiation Protocol (SIP)?

SIP is an Internet Protocol for setting up and tearing down sessions. A voice call would be a typical session. Other types of sessions are video conferencing, games and instant messaging. SIP has been developed as an alternative to the widespread H.323 protocol, and in many ways they are quite similar - SIP uses the same audio and video compression algorithms as H.323. SIP and H.323 have been around for about the same amount of time.

### Why is SIP so important?

Both SIP and H.323 are being used for Voice over IP (VoIP), but SIP is gaining in popularity. Several traditional PBX vendors such as Nortel, Siemens, Alcatel and Avaya have announced that they will use the SIP protocol in future products. Microsoft is also a big promoter of SIP. One of the main reasons for the publicity and excitement around SIP is the future potential of this protocol.

### What are the advantages of SIP?

SIP is attractive in that it supports basic telephony services such as call forward and call hold. SIP is also very flexible and extendable - it is easy to add features to SIP. Another advantage SIP has over H.323 is the availability of new services such as instant messaging, presence and mobility.

### What are the disadvantages of SIP?

Compared to H.323, SIP currently supports only a very limited set of video services. The standardization of video over SIP is far from complete. With important features such as presentation modes (DuoVideo), far-end camera control and advanced MCU services missing, SIP is currently best suited to low-end endpoints with limited functionality.

### What are TANDBERG's plans for SIP?

TANDBERG participates actively in both the IETF (Internet Engineering Task Force) and in the SIP Forum, and TANDBERG is a serious contributor to the standardization of video over SIP. The goal is to ensure interoperability and promote the inclusion of value added features.

TANDBERG is fully committed to multi-protocol support. Starting with F2 software, all MXP products support SIP. This makes TANDBERG the only vendor on the market with H.323, H.320, SCCP and SIP support.

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