

Matrox Video– MXL Patent Pledge FAQ (External)

Why has Matrox Video made this Pledge?

Matrox Video has been a pioneer in the broadcast industry, helping partners transition from proprietary broadcast hardware to software-defined pipelines for many decades. In 2019, Matrox Video developed a groundbreaking asynchronous media framework that reimagined how media applications could be built; treating media more like generic IT data and enabling the industry to leverage the scale and investment of the broader IT ecosystem to drive efficiency and performance. It became clear that this approach represented the future of media.

Matrox Video has actively evangelized the benefits and concepts of asynchronous processing through industry forums, publications, and tradeshow, helping to shape broader industry understanding and adoption of these principles.

Matrox Video publicly launched Matrox ORIGIN at NAB 2023, providing a development framework that enables developers to rapidly build software-defined media applications.

Matrox Video was granted a US patent which, in simple terms, describes a system composed of one or more hosts, with media functions that process content including real-time inputs and outputs and an asynchronous grain transfer mechanism. Matrox Video also has related patent applications pending in other jurisdictions.

When the EBU published the DMF RA at IBC 2024, it became clear that there was strong industry momentum toward building an open media exchange layer. Matrox Video was involved from the early stages of the MXL project (Tiger Team) and has supported the initiative ever since.

However, it also became clear that as the MXL project evolved, some of its implementation could potentially fall within the scope of Matrox Video's issued patent and related patent applications. After careful consideration, Matrox Video decided that it is in the best interest of the industry for MXL to achieve broad adoption. This will enable a new generation of open, software-defined, dynamic media facilities, goals that align with Matrox Video's vision.

As a company, Matrox Video strongly supports open standards and interoperability, with examples including ST 2110 and IPMX, reinforcing its commitment to an open and collaborative ecosystem.

This Pledge affirms Matrox Video's commitment to the MXL project. Matrox Origin supports MXL and our goal is to provide developers with a complete framework for building DMF media applications.

What claims are covered by the Pledge?

The Pledge covers Claims 1, 4, 5, 11, 14, and 15 of U.S. Patent No. 12,495,084. Matrox Video has related patent applications pending in the U.S. and other jurisdictions. If those applications result in issued patents with claims that correspond in scope to the Pledged Claims, Matrox Video will add the corresponding claims to the pledge once granted. These Pledged Claims cover the core concept of a system comprising multiple hosts with real-time input and/or output, shared memory, and a grain transfer mechanism.

Why is the whole patent not pledged?

Matrox Video chose to pledge only the specific claims required by MXL. The remaining non-pledged Claims relate to unique and additional features available exclusively in Matrox ORIGIN including features such as automatic redundancy and location-independent routing, which enable seamless switching across large systems.

At this time, Matrox Video does not expect that these features will be required in MXL. Systems built with MXL are expected to follow more traditional redundancy and routing approaches. Matrox ORIGIN continues to innovate beyond the baseline defined by MXL, delivering advanced capabilities required for large-scale, dynamic media facilities.

Is a licence required?

No. Matrox Video wants to remove friction for MXL implementers therefore there is no need to request a licence from Matrox Video for the scope covered by the Pledge. Instead, Matrox Video has adopted a non-assertion patent pledge as the legal framework to support adopters of MXL-based systems.

Is the Pledge limited to open-source, non-commercial products?

No. The Pledge applies to both open-source and commercial applications.

Why is a defensive termination clause included in the Pledge

The Pledge is a commitment by Matrox Video not to assert the Pledged Claims, at no cost to Covered Parties. It is therefore reasonable to include a condition that the Pledge is intended to apply only as long as a Covered Party (and its affiliates) does not assert, or benefit from, the assertion of, patent claims against Matrox Video, its affiliates, or its products and services.

Why does the Pledge specify a UK forum/venue?

Specifying a UK forum provides a consistent and predictable way of resolving questions about how the Pledge is interpreted or applied. However, because patent rights are territorial, some matters may still need to be addressed under the laws and courts of other jurisdictions. Where possible, Matrox Video prefers pledge-related disputes to be handled in the UK to maintain consistency for the community.

Does the Pledge cover any other Matrox Video claims or patents?

No. The Pledge is limited to the specific Pledged Claims identified above. Matrox Video is not committing to pledging other claims or unrelated patents. However, corresponding patents or claims within the same family may be added if and when they are granted.

How does the Pledge affect the license provisions already established by MXL, for example, Apache 2.0 or CC4?

The Pledge does not change any licence obligations established by the MXL project. Contributors and users must continue to comply with the applicable open-source licences.

Does the Pledge cover non-MXL asynchronous transport libraries?

No. The Pledge is limited to systems built using Matrox ORIGIN (which natively supports MXL) or MXL directly.

What if I want to use features defined in the patent that are not part of the Pledge?

Matrox Video is open to discussing licensing options if you are interested in building highly scalable and resilient media facilities using these additional Matrox Video patented features that are beyond the scope of the Pledge.