



DEPARTMENT OF WAR
DEFENSE MEDIA ACTIVITY
6700 TAYLOR AVENUE, SUITE 5902
FORT MEADE, MD 20755

March 2, 2026

MEMORANDUM FOR AFN CONTENT DISTRIBUTORS

FROM: HEADQUARTERS, AMERICAN FORCES NETWORK PROGRAM MANAGER

SUBJECT: Secure Reliable Transport Update

- References: (a) AFN Signal Distribution memorandum, October 18, 2024
(b) Notification of Reduction in American Forces Network Satellite Television, January 16, 2025
(c) Secure Reliable Transport Memorandum, February 12, 2025 (Cancelled)

This memorandum incorporates and cancels reference (c) and refines the recommended equipment list for reception of AFN signals via Transport Steams over Internet Protocol (TSoIP) on commercial internet using the Secure Reliable Transport (SRT) protocol. Transition to SRT is recommended for all last-mile distributors (LMDs) worldwide as AFN's strategic modernization efforts include the abandonment of satellite delivery for AFN content.

The March 22, 2026, termination of the AFN satellite-delivered eight-channel HDTV and multi-channel audio programming package, commonly referred to as the "Direct to Home" (DTH) service, is AFN's initial effort to move to SRT.

Each LMD distribution topology is unique and while no 'one-size-fits-all' solution exists, the information in the attachment may assist LMDs in their equipment selection. Entities are solely responsible for engineering, equipment selection, procurement, installation, testing, and commissioning of their preferred SRT distribution system solution.

Questions related to this policy or implementation guidance in the attachment should be directed to the AFN SRT development group at dma.march.afn.bcst-ctr-ts.list.srt-dev@mail.mil.

Erik G. Brazones
AFN Program Manager

Attachment: AFN Secure Reliable Transport

AFN SECURE RELIABLE TRANSPORT

Last-mile distributor equipment and engineering needs vary by entity. Regardless of system design, all SRT decoders provisioned to acquire and distribute AFN signals ***must*** meet the following technical specifications.

1. Compatible with Multi-Program Transport Streams (MPTS) or Single Program Transport Streams (SPTS).
2. Have native or licensed Zixi support.
3. Comply with Section 889 of the FY 2019 National Defense Authorization Act, incorporated into the Federal Acquisition Regulations, available at <https://www.acq.osd.mil/asda/dpc/cp/cyber/section-889.html>.

MPTS is AFN's preferred content delivery method to achieve operational efficiency within our licensing constraints. AFN will work with LMDs to verify proposed system topography and architecture and for those distributors using SPTS equipment to determine the best method to support their needs. AFN is not funded for, and cannot provide, the equipment needed for SRT distribution.

All LMDs should have a stable internet service with redundant pathways, minimum bandwidth of 25 Mbps, and a static IP address for this service.

AFN has identified SRT decoder options that meet the above technical specifications. The information on the following pages supports AFN's technical requirements and is provided as possible solutions to LMDs as they research equipment to meet their SRT system requirements.

Two SRT equipment options may meet LMD needs that offer an integrated and a modular solution.

1. Integrated options are often the most straightforward choice for facilities that have existing distribution headend systems with available ASI or IP inputs. It acts as a simple, robust bridge between the incoming SRT streams and the existing infrastructure.
2. Modular options provide versatility and can serve as a complete, self-contained distribution headend. It may be an ideal choice if the LMD needs to build a new headend or desires a single system to handle signal reception, processing, and direct-to-cable modulation. Its modularity allows for future expansion to meet changing requirements.

The following table provides a side-by-side comparison between an integrated and modular option and outlines general features and common configurations of each solution.

SIDE-BY-SIDE SRT SOLUTION COMPARISON

Feature	Integrated Solution	Modular Solution
Description	A single, pre-configured appliance designed for specific broadcast tasks such as reception, decoding, and stream passthrough.	A chassis-based system where different modules (cards) are combined to achieve a custom, all-in-one solution.
Form Factor	Typically, a one rack mountable device that requires one RU of space	Typically, a larger chassis with multiple card slots that requires one or more RU spaces
Flexibility	Features are generally fixed with some software-licensable upgrades. Best suited for a well-defined unchanging role.	Highly flexible; functionality can be changed, added, or upgraded by swapping or adding modules (e.g., encoders, modulators).
Primary Functions	Focused on receiving and passing through entire MPTS or decoding specific channels	Configurable to perform a complete workflow; reception, transcoding, encoding local sources, and output in a headend-ready format.
Input Protocols	Supports various IP protocols including SRT, Zixi, and HLS. May also feature traditional inputs like satellite tuners or ASI.	Primarily IP-focused via a gateway module (SRT, Zixi, HLS, etc.). Other inputs (HDMI, SDI) are possible via specific encoder modules.
Output Options	Common outputs include IP (UDP/RTP), ASI, and decoded baseband video (SDI/HDMI).	Determined by the installed module(s). Can be IP, ASI, or modulated RF (QAM), providing a direct connection to a cable distribution plant.
Example Use Cases	IP/ASI Gateway: Excellent for receiving the SRT stream and passing the full, multi-program stream to an existing headend system via industry-standard IP or ASI.	<p>All-in-One Headend: Can serve as a complete system. Examples based upon market availability include the following.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IP to QAM: receives the SRT stream and modulates the channel directly onto QAM RF for ingest into a cable system. • IP to QAM with local input: Same as above but also encodes local sources and adds it to the channel lineup. • IP Gateway: can also be configured simply to receive SRT and pass the stream out over a standard IP network.

NOTE: Information provided herein does not constitute an endorsement of any service, product, manufacturer, or non-federal entity by the Department of War Information Activity or the Department of War.

Sample Modular Solution One: SRT to QAM for eight-channel distribution		
Make	Model	Description
J2C	AFN-BC SRT-REC-BUDL	AFN-BC SRT receive bundle for Direct to Home Content to include the following:
Sencore	WAV17600605	TAOMNIHUB-6D-02 Omnihub 1RU Chassis, 6 Module Slots, Dual 400-Watt Power Supplies TAA Compliant 5 Year SLA Included
STAR	TAOHP6-GATEWAY-00	IP processing module with HLS input and UDP protocols, 10 Gateways
STAR	TAOHP6-GATEWAY-00020	SRT Protocols License, per module.
STAR	TAOHP6-GATEWAY-00040	ZIXI Protocols License, per module
STAR	TAOHX6-TXS-00	Transcode Module: MPEG 2/H.264 HEVC SD/HD, up to 8 TRANSCODE
Sencore	WAV17600620	TAOHE6-HDMI-02 Encoder card 2 program HDMI input MPEG2 2/H.264 SD&HD MPEG1L2 AC3 AAC audio and CC
Sencore	WAV17600640	TAOHM6-QAMB-16 QAM B Modulator Module 16 CH Agile Output
<p>Note: Items are available on the NASA Solutions for Enterprise-Wide Procurement (SEWP) site at https://www.sewp.nasa.gov/ under an Indefinite Deliver, Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ). Items are TAA Compliant.</p>		

Sample Modular Solution Two: SRT to MPEG-4 IP for IPTV transport		
Make	Model	Description
J2C	AFN-BC SRT-REC-BUDL	AFN-BC SRT receive bundle for Direct to Home Content to include the following:
Sencore	WAV17600605	TAOMNIHUB-6D-02 Omnihub 1RU Chassis, 6 Module Slots, Dual 400-Watt Power Supplies TAA Compliant 5 Year SLA Included
STAR	TAOHP6-GATEWAY-00	IP processing module with HLS input and UDP protocols, 10 Gateways
STAR	TAOHP6-GATEWAY-00020	SRT Protocols License, per module.
STAR	TAOHP6-GATEWAY-00040	ZIXI Protocols License, per module
<p>Note: Items are available on the NASA Solutions for Enterprise-Wide Procurement (SEWP) site at https://www.sewp.nasa.gov/ under an Indefinite Deliver, Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ). Items are TAA Compliant.</p>		