

PHAROS (<http://www.pharos-audiovisual-search.eu>) is an Integrated Project (IST-2005-2.6.3) of the EC IST 6th Framework Programme aimed at building a platform for advanced audiovisual search applications. The Consortium comprises 12 partners from 9 European countries: Engineering Ingegneria Informatica S.p.A. (Italy, Project Coordinator), FAST a Microsoft Subsidiary (Norway), France Telecom (France), L3S Research Center (Germany), Fraunhofer IDMT (Germany), EPFL (Switzerland), Open University KMI (UK), Music Technology Group Universitat Pompeu Fabra (Spain), VTT (Finland), Circom Regional, SAIL LABS (Austria), and Web Models (Italy).

PHAROS unbundles the functionalities of an audiovisual search engine into an open service-based ecosystem, where content can be submitted to customized analysis pipelines, third-party annotation components can be plugged-in, and content based search engines can be registered. PHAROS enables a variety of application scenarios, from content acquisition and enrichment, to annotation fusion, to multi-modal queries.

The demo exploits the online access to the PHAROS platform for an in-depth tour of the generated Pharos demonstrator, comprising several usage scenarios such as keyword- and content-based search, similarity search, faceted search. Queries can be iteratively built as an arbitrary combination of such options. Example of expressible queries are: a) find all the videos related to tourism in Bavaria, b) find the videos talking about Al Gore and where the speaker is Al Gore himself, c) find all the video containing faces similar to the uploaded one.

The demo offers two user interfaces: one for desktop PC and one for mobile terminal. The application performs query building, query execution on the PHAROS back-end, and rendering of the results. It also supports aspects like user-generated tags, queries storage, reuse and monitoring, in order to receive notifications (SMS or email) when new contents matching the given query are published.

The demo will also show how PHAROS can enact typical content provider tasks, like the provision of new contents and compositions and updates of the content analysis process: to demonstrate the unique openness of the architecture, an integration of a sample third party component (a face detector used in video security) will also be illustrated.