Advanced Micro Devices

Advanced Media Framework – h.264 Video Encoder

Programming Guide

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1 Introduction

1.1 Scope

This document provides a complete description of the AMD Advanced Media Framework (AMF) Video Encoder Component. This component exposes the AMD Video Compression Engine (VCE), which provides hardware accelerated H.264 video encoding functionality.

Figure 1 provides a system overview of the AMF Video Encoder Component.

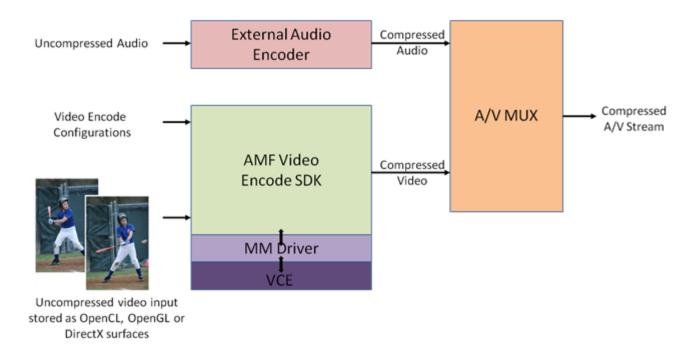


Figure 1 — System overview of the AMF Video Encode SDK

The AMF Video Encoder Component compresses RAW uncompressed video to an H.264 elementary bitstream.

The component does not provide a mechanism to handle audio compression, or stream multiplexing.

The component provides four different sets of pre-defined usages, which provide a convenient way for developers to configure the encoder to match the intended application use case. Advanced developers can also adjust encoding parameters to tailor the behavior to their specific application requirements.

1.2 Pre-defined Encoder Usages

The following table provides a brief overview of the encoding usage modes that have been defined:

Usage Mode	Intended use-cases	Comments
Transcoding	Transcoding, video editing	Favor compression efficiency and throughput over latency.
Ultra-low latency	Video game streaming	Optimize for extremely low latency use cases (e.g. cap the number of bits per frame), to enable high-interactivity applications.
Low Latency	Video collaboration, remote desktop	Optimize for low latency scenarios, but allow occasional bitrate overshoots to preserve quality.
Webcam	Video conferencing	Optimize for a low-latency video conferencing scenario, with scalable video coding (SVC) support.

2 AMF Video Encoder VCE-AVC Component

The AMF Video Encoder VCE-AVC component provides hardware accelerated AVC/SVC encoding using AMD's VCE.

To instantiate the AMF Video Encoder component, call the AMFFactory::CreateComponent method passing AMFVideoEncoderVCE_AVC or AMFVideoEncoderVCE_SVC component IDs defined in the public/include/components/VideoEncoderVCE.h header.

2.1 Input Submission and Output Retrieval

The AMF Video Encoder component accepts AMFSurface objects as input and produces AMFBuffer objects for output.

In the Transcoding mode the encoder needs to accept at least 3 input frames before any output is produced. In low latency modes output becomes available as soon as the first submitted frame is encoded.

2.2 Encode Parameters

Annex A provides the detailed description of encoding parameters (i.e., encoder properties) exposed by the Video Encoder VCE-AVC component for the following four usages:

- Transcoding mode,
- Ultra-low latency mode,
- Low Latency mode, and
- · Webcam mode.

All properties are accessed using the AMFPropertyStorage interface of the Encoder object.

2.2.1 Static Properties

Static properties (e.g., profile, level, usage) must be defined before the Init() function is called, and will apply until the end of the encoding session.

2.2.2 Dynamic Properties

All dynamic properties have default values. Several properties can be changed subsequently and these changes will be flushed to encoder only before the next Submit() call.

2.2.3 Frame Per-Submission Properties

Per submission properties are applied on a per frame basis. They can be set optionally to force a certain behavior (e.g., force frame type to IDR) by updating the properties of the AMFSurface object that is passed through the AMFComponent::Submit() call.

2.2.4 SVC Properties

For define frame-rate SVC parameters per layer the next format must be used:

TL<Temporal_Layer_Number>.QL<Quality_Layer_Number>.<Parameter_name>

For example, to configure "Target bitrate" for temporal layer 2 and quality layer 1 the next parameter name uses:

"TL2.QL0.TargetBitrate"

Remark: quality layers are not supported on VCE 1.0. "QLO" must be used for quality layers.

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AMF Video Encode SDK

2.2.5 ROI feature

Region of importance (ROI) feature provides a way to specify the relative importance of the macroblocks in the video frame. Encoder will further adjust the bits allocation among code blocks based on the importance, on top of the base rate control decisions. More important blocks will be encoded with relatively better quality.

The ROI map can be attached to the input frame on a per frame basis. Currently, the ROI map can only use system memory. The ROI map includes the importance values of each macro block, ranging from 0 to 10, stored in 32bit unsinged format. Refer to SimpleROI sample application for further implementation details.

3 Sample Applications

The AMF Encoder Sample application show how to setup and use the AMF Video Encoder VCE-AVC Component to encode video frames that are loaded from disk or rendered by the DirectX 3D engine.

3.1 List of Parameters

Sample applications support almost all visible encoder parameters (except PictureStructure, EndOfSequence, EndOfStream) and few additional parameters.

Additional parameters of VCEEncoderRaw application:

Category	Name	Values	Description
	ApplyTo	Frame number	Forces all subsequent configuration parameters to be applied to a specific frame
	Input	File name, relative or absolute path	Input file with frames (YUV420, NV12 or BGRA)
Miscellaneous	Output	File name, relative or absolute path	Output H.264 file for encoded data
parameters	DX9	Flag (without any values)	Forces Direct3D 9 (default Direct3D 11)
	OpenCL	Flag (without any values)	Forces OpenCL
	MTMode	Flag (without any values)	Enables creating or reading from file of frames in separate thread.
	PerfStat	Flag (without any values)	Enables showing a performance statistic

Additional parameters of VCEEncoderD3D application:

Category	Name	Values	Description
Miscellaneous	Frames	Number of frames to be encoded	Number of frames to be encoded
parameters			
	АрріуТо	Frame number	Forces all subsequent configuration parameters to be applied to a specific frame
	Output	File name, relative or absolute path	Output H.264 file for encoded data
	DX9	Flag (without any values)	Use Direct3D 9 (default Direct3D 11)
			for rendering
	DX9EX	Flag (without any values)	The same as DX9 but using
			Device9Ex instead Device9
	OpenGL	Flag (without any values)	Use OpenGL for rendering
	Windowmode	Flag (without any values)	Shows rendering window for D3D sample application



N	MTMode	Flag (without any values)	Enables creating or reading from file	
			of frames in separate thread.	
			Doesn't work for OpenGL.	
P	PerfStat	Flag (without any values)	Enables showing a performance	
			statistic	

3.2 Command line example

3.2.1 Transcoding application (TranscodingHW.exe)

VCEEncoderRaw.exe -input input.h264 -output out.h264 -width 1280 -height 720 -usage transcoding -rateControlMethod cbr -targetBitrate 500000 -targetBitrate 100000

This command transcodes H264 elementary stream to H.264 video. Encoder is created with "Transcoding" usage.

3.2.2 D3D application (VCEEncoderD3D.exe)

VCEEncoderD3D.exe -output VideoSample_1024x768.h264 -width 1024 -height 768 -usage transcoding - rateControlMethod cbr -targetBitrate 500000 -frames 400

This command encodes 400 frames through D3D renderer and creates an output file with the encoded data. Encoder is created with "Transcoding" usage. Initial configuration sets bitrate to a value of 500kbits/sec.

Annex A: Encoding & frame parameters description

Table A-1. Encoder configuration parameters

Category	Name	Values	Description
Encoder initialization parameters	AMF_VIDEO_ENCODER_USAGE	0, 1, 2, 3 (Transcoding, UltraLowLatency, LowLatency, Webcam)	Selects the AMF usage (see Section 1.2)
	AMF_VIDEO_ENCODER_PROFILE	66, 77, 100 (Baseline, Main, High)	Selects the H.264 profile
	AMF_VIDEO_ENCODER_PROFILE_LEVEL	1, 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 2, 2.1, 2.2, 3, 3.1, 3.2, 4, 4.1, 4.2	Selects the H.264 profile level
	AMF_VIDEO_ENCODER_MAX_LTR_FRAMES	0 2	The number of long-term references controlled by the user.
			Remarks: When == 0, the encoder may or may not use LTRs during encoding. When >0, the user has control over all LTR. With user control of LTR, B-pictures and Intra-refresh features are not supported. The actual maximum number of LTRs allowed depends on H.264 Annex A Table A-1 Level limits, which defines dependencies between the H.264 Level number, encoding resolution, and DPB size limit impacts the maximum number of LTR allowed.
	AMF_VIDEO_ENCODER_LOWLATENCY_MODE	True/False (On/Off); default is false	Enables low latency mode in the encoder and switches POC mode to 2
	AMF_VIDEO_ENCODER_FRAMESIZE	Width: 64 – 4096 Height: 64 – 4096	Frame width and height in pixels, maximum values are hardware-specific, should be queried through AMFCaps
	AMF_VIDEO_ENCODER_ASPECT_RATIO	Default 1:1	Pixel aspect ratio
	AMF_VIDEO_ENCODER_COLOR_BIT_DEPTH	8, 10, 16	Sets the number of bits in each pixel's color component in the encoder's compressed output bitstream. Default is 8.
	AMF_VIDEO_ENCODER_TARGET_BITRATE	10 000 - 100 000 000 bit/s	Sets the target bitrate
	AMF_VIDEO_ENCODER_PEAK_BITRATE	10 000 - 100 000 000 bit/s	Sets the peak bitrate



Category	Name	Values	Description
Encoder rate-control parameters	AMF_VIDEO_ENCODER_RATE_CONTROL_METHOD	0, 1, 2, 3 (CQP, CBR, VBR, VBR_LAT)	Selects the rate control method: CQP – Constrained QP, CBR - Constant Bitrate, VBR - Peak Constrained VBR, VBR_LAT - Latency Constrained VBR Remarks: When SVC encoding is enabled, all Ratecontrol parameters (with some restrictions) can be configured differently for a particular SVC-layer. An SVC-layer is denoted by an index pair [SVC-Temporal Layer index][SVC-Quality Layer index]. E.g. The bitrate may be configured differently for SVC-layers [0][0] and [1][0]. We restrict all SVC layers to have the same Rate Control method. Some RC parameters are not enabled with SVC encoding (e.g. all parameters related to B-pictures).
	AMF_VIDEO_ENCODER_RATE_CONTROL_SKIP_FRAME_E NABLE	True/False (On/Off)	Enables skip frame for rate control
	AMF_VIDEO_ENCODER_MIN_QP	0-51	Sets the minimum QP
	AMF_VIDEO_ENCODER_MAX_QP	0-51	Sets the maximum QP
	AMF_VIDEO_ENCODER_QP_I	0-51	Sets the constant QP for I- pictures. Remarks: Only available for CQP rate control method.
	AMF_VIDEO_ENCODER_QP_P	0-51	Sets the constant QP for P- pictures. Remarks: Only available for CQP rate control method.
	AMF_VIDEO_ENCODER_QP_B	0-51	Sets the constant QP for B- pictures. Remarks: Only available for CQP rate control method.
	AMF_VIDEO_ENCODER_FRAMERATE	1*FrameRateDen 120* FrameRateDen	Frame rate numerator
	AMF_VIDEO_ENCODER_VBV_BUFFER_SIZE	1000 – 100 000 000	Sets the VBV buffer size in bits
	AMF_VIDEO_ENCODER_INITIAL_VBV_BUFFER_FULLNESS	0 - 64	Sets the initial VBV buffer fullness



Category	Name	Values	Description
	AMF_VIDEO_ENCODER_ENFORCE_HRD	True/False (On/Off)	Disables/enables constraints on QP variation within a picture to meet HRD requirement(s)
	AMF_VIDEO_ENCODER_ENABLE_VBAQ	True/False (On/Off)	Enables/disables VBAQ VBAQ stands for "Variance Based Adaptive Quantization". The basic idea of VBAQ: Human visual system is typically less sensitive to artifacts in highly textured area. In VBAQ mode, we use pixel variance to indicate the complexity of spatial texture. This allows us to allocate more bits to smoother areas. Enabling such feature leads to improvements in subjective visual quality with some content.
	AMF_VIDEO_ENCODER_MAX_AU_SIZE	0 - 100 000 000 bits	Maximum AU size in bits
	AMF_VIDEO_ENCODER_B_PIC_DELTA_QP *	-10 10	Selects the delta QP of non- reference B pictures with respect to I pictures
	AMF_VIDEO_ENCODER_REF_B_PIC_DELTA_QP *	-10 10	Selects delta QP of reference B pictures with respect to I pictures
	AMF_VIDEO_ENCODER_RATE_CONTROL_PREANALYSIS_E NABLE	AMF_VIDEO_ENCODER_PREEN CODE_DISABLED, AMF_VIDEO_ENCODER_PREEN CODE_ENABLED, AMF_VIDEO_ENCODER_PREEN CODE_ENABLED_DOWNSCALE FACTOR_2, AMF_VIDEO_ENCODER_PREEN CODE_ENABLED_DOWNSCALE FACTOR_4	Enables or disables rate control pre-analysis, default is Disabled
	AMF_VIDEO_ENCODER_FILLER_DATA_ENABLE	True/False	Enables/disables filler data to maintain constant bit rate
Encoder picture-	AMF_VIDEO_ENCODER_HEADER_INSERTION_SPACING	0 1000	Sets the headers insertion spacing
control parameters	AMF_VIDEO_ENCODER_IDR_PERIOD	0 1000	Sets IDR period. IDRPeriod= 0 turns IDR off
	AMF_VIDEO_ENCODER_DE_BLOCKING_FILTER	True/False (On/Off)	Enable/disable the de- blocking filter
	AMF_VIDEO_ENCODER_INTRA_REFRESH_NUM_MBS_PER _SLOT	0 - #MBs per frame	Sets the number of intra- refresh macro-blocks per slot
	AMF_VIDEO_ENCODER_SLICES_PER_FRAME	1 - #MBs per frame	Sets the number of slices per frame
	AMF_VIDEO_ENCODER_B_PIC_PATTERN *	0, 1, 2, 3	Sets the number of consecutive B-pictures in a GOP. BPicturesPattern = 0 indicates that B-pictures are not used
	AMF_VIDEO_ENCODER_B_REFERENCE_ENABLE *	True/False (On/Off)	Enables or disables using B- pictures as references

Category	Name	Values	Description
	AMF_VIDEO_ENCODER_CABAC_ENABLE	AMF_VIDEO_ENCODER_UNDE FINED, AMF_VIDEO_ENCODER_CABA C, AMF_VIDEO_ENCODER_CALV	Encoder coding method, when Undefined is selected, the behavior is profile- specific: CALV for Baseline, CABAC for Main and High
	AMF_VIDEO_ENCODER_MAX_NUM_REFRAMES	016	Maximum number of reference frames
Encoder miscellaneou	AMF_VIDEO_ENCODER_SCANTYPE	0, 1 (Progressive, Interlaced)	Selects progressive or interlaced scan
s parameters	AMF_VIDEO_ENCODER_QUALITY_PRESET	0, 1, 2 (Balanced, Speed, Quality)	Selects the quality preset
	AMF_VIDEO_ENCODER_FULL_RANGE_COLOR	True/False	True indicates that the YUV range is 0255
	AMF_VIDEO_ENCODER_MAX_INSTANCES	1 or 2	Hardware-dependent, only some hardware supports 2 instances
	AMF_VIDEO_ENCODER_MULTI_INSTANCE_MODE	True or False	Enables or disables multi- instance mode, default - disabled
	AMF_VIDEO_ENCODER_CURRENT_QUEUE	0 or 1	Selects the encoder instance frames are being submitted to
Encoder motion	AMF_VIDEO_ENCODER_MOTION_HALF_PIXEL	True/False (On/Off)	Turns on/off half-pixel motion estimation
estimation parameters	AMF_VIDEO_ENCODER_MOTION_QUARTERPIXEL	True/False (On/Off)	Turns on/off quarter-pixel motion estimation
Encoder SVC parameters (only webcam usage)	AMF_VIDEO_ENCODER_NUM_TEMPORAL_ENHANCMENT _LAYERS	0 MaxOfTemporalEnhansmentLa yers	Change the number of temporal enhancement layers. The maximum number allowed is set by the corresponding create parameter.
			Remarks: • Actual modification of the number of temporal enhancement layers will be delayed until the start of the next temporal GOP. • B-pictures and Intrarefresh features are not supported with SVC.
Encoder SVC per-layer parameters (only webcam usage)	TL <tl_num>. QL<ql_num>. <parameter_name></parameter_name></ql_num></tl_num>	Parameter-specific values	Configures SVC frame-rate parameter per SVC layer. TL_Num — temporal layer number QL_Num — quality layer number Parameter_name — frame rate parameter name (look at frame-rate parameters on this table). Remarks: Quality layers are not
			supported on VCE 1.0. "QL0" must be used for quality layers.

f * this feature is not supported by VCE 1.0



Table A-2. Input frame and encoded data parameters

Category	Name	Values	Description
Frame per-	AMF_VIDEO_ENCODER_INSERT_SPS	True/False (On/Off)	Inserts SPS
submission	AMF_VIDEO_ENCODER_INSERT_PPS	True/False (On/Off)	Inserts PPS
parameters	AMF_VIDEO_ENCODER_INSERT_AUD	True/False (On/Off)	Inserts AUD
	AMF_VIDEO_ENCODER_PICTURE_STRUCTURE	0, 1, 2, 3 (None, Frame, TopField, BottomField)	Picture structure
	AMF_VIDEO_ENCODER_FORCE_PICTURE_TYPE	0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5* (NONE, SKIP, IDR, I, P, B*)	Forces the picture type (to use this feature, set AMF_VIDEO_ENCODER_ID
			R_PERIOD to 0)
_	AMF_VIDEO_ENCODER_END_OF_SEQUENCE	True/False (On/Off)	End of sequence
_	AMF_VIDEO_ENCODER_END_OF_STREAM	True/False (On/Off)	End of stream
	AMF_VIDEO_ENCODER_MARK_CURRENT_WITH_LTR_INDEX	-1 (MaxOfLTRFrames - 1)	If != -1, the current picture is coded as a long-term reference with the given index.
			Remarks: When the user controls N LTRs (using the corresponding Create parameter), then the LTR Index the user can assign to a reference picture varies from 0 to N-1. By default, the encoder will "use up" available LTR Indices (i.e. assign them to references) even if the user does not request them to be used. When LTR is used with SVC encoding, only base temporal layer pictures can be coded as LTR. In this case, the request to mark the current picture as LTR would be delayed to the next base temporal layer picture if the current picture if the current picture is in an enhancement layer. If the user submits multiple requests to mark current as LTR between base temporal layer pictures, then only the last request is applied.
	AMF_VIDEO_ENCODER_FORCE_LTR_REFERENCE_BITFIELD	Bitfield (MaxOfLTRFrames (max possible 16 bits))	Force LTR Reference allowed bitfield. If == 0, the current picture should predict from the default reference. If != 0, the

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			current picture should
			predict from one of the LTRs allowed by the
			bitfield (bit# = LTR Index#).
			Remarks: • E.g. if Bit#0 = 1, then the existing LTR with LTR Index = 0 may be used for reference. The bitfield may allow more than one LTR for reference, in which case the encoder is free to choose which one to use. This bitfield also disallows existing LTRs not enabled by it from current/future reference. • E.g. if Bit#1 = 0, and there is an existing reference with LTR Index = 1, then this LTR Index will not be used for reference with a newer reference with the
			same LTR Index.
	AMF_VIDEO_ENCODER_ROI_DATA	Video surface in AMF_SURFACE_GRAY32 format	Important value for each macro block ranges from 0 to 10, stored in 32bit unsigned format.
Encoded	AMF_VIDEO_ENCODER_OUTPUT_DATA_TYPE	0, 1, 2, 3* (IDR, I, P, B*)	Type of encoded data
data parameters	AMF_VIDEO_ENCODER_OUTPUT_MARKED_LTR_INDEX	-1 (MaxOfLTRFrames - 1)	Marked as LTR Index. If != -1, then this picture was coded as a long-term reference with this LTR Index.
	AMF_VIDEO_ENCODER_OUTPUT_REFERENCED_LTR_INDEX_BITF IELD	Bitfield (MaxOfLTRFrames (max possible 16 bits))	Referenced LTR Index bitfield. If != 0, this picture was coded to reference long-term references. The enabled bits identify the LTR Indices of the referenced pictures (e.g. if Bit #0 = 1, then LTR Index 0 was used as a reference when coding this picture).

^{*} this feature is not supported by VCE 1.0

Table A-3. Default values of parameters

Category	Name	Transcoding	Ultra low latency	Low latency	Webcam
Initialization	AMF_VIDEO_ENCODER_PROFILE	Main	Main	Main	Main
Parameters	AMF_VIDEO_ENCODER_PROFILE_LEVEL	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2



	AMF VIDEO ENCODER TARGET BITRATE	20 mbps	20 mbps	20 mbps	20 mbps
Rate control	AMF VIDEO ENCODER PEAK BITRATE	30 mbps	20 mbps	30 mbps	30 mbps
	AMF VIDEO ENCODER MIN QP	18	22	22	22
	AMF VIDEO ENCODER MAX QP	46	48	48	48
	AMF VIDEO ENCODER QP I	22	22	22	22
	AMF VIDEO ENCODER QP P	22	22	22	22
	AMF VIDEO ENCODER QP B	22	22	22	22
	AMF_VIDEO_ENCODER_FRAMERATE	30 fps	30 fps	30 fps	30 fps
	AMF_VIDEO_ENCODER_VBV_BUFFER_SIZE	20 mbits	735 kbits	4 mbits	2 mbits
	AMF_VIDEO_ENCODER_INITIAL_VBV_BUFFER_FULLNESS	64	64	64	64
	AMF_VIDEO_ENCODER_ENFORCE_HRD	false	true	false	false
	AMF_VIDEO_ENCODER_MAX_AU_SIZE	0	0	0	0
	AMF_VIDEO_ENCODER_FILLER_DATA_ENABLE	false	false	false	false
	AMF_VIDEO_ENCODER_B_PIC_DELTA_QP*	+4	0	+4	+4
	AMF_VIDEO_ENCODER_REF_B_PIC_DELTA_QP*	+2	0	+2	+2
	AMF_VIDEO_ENCODER_HEADER_INSERTION_SPACING**	0	0	0	0
	AMF_VIDEO_ENCODER_IDR_PERIOD	30	300	300	30
Picture Control	AMF_VIDEO_ENCODER_DE_BLOCKING_FILTER	true	true	true	true
	AMF_VIDEO_ENCODER_INTRA_REFRESH_NUM_MBS_PER_SLOT*	0	255	255	0
	AMF_VIDEO_ENCODER_SLICES_PER_FRAME	1	1	1	1
	AMF_VIDEO_ENCODER_B_PIC_PATTERN*	3	0	0	0
	AMF_VIDEO_ENCODER_B_REFERENCE_ENABLE*	true	false	true	true
	AMF_VIDEO_ENCODER_SCANTYPE	0	0	0	0
	AMF_VIDEO_ENCODER_QUALITY_PRESET	Balanced	Speed	Speed	Speed
Motion estimation	AMF_VIDEO_ENCODER_MOTION_HALF_PIXEL	1	1	1	1
	AMF_VIDEO_ENCODER_MOTION_QUARTERPIXEL	1	1	1	1
SVC	AMF_VIDEO_ENCODER_NUM_TEMPORAL_ENHANCMENT_LAYERS	disable	disable	disable	0
Per- submission parameters	AMF_VIDEO_ENCODER_INSERT_SPS	0	0	0	0
	AMF_VIDEO_ENCODER_INSERT_PPS	0	0	0	0
	AMF_VIDEO_ENCODER_PICTURE_STRUCTURE	0	0	0	0
	AMF_VIDEO_ENCODER_FORCE_PICTURE_TYPE	0	0	0	0
	AMF_VIDEO_ENCODER_INSERT_AUD	false	false	false	false
	AMF_VIDEO_ENCODER_END_OF_SEQUENCE	false	false	false	false
	AMF_VIDEO_ENCODER_END_OF_STREAM	false	false	false	false
	AMF_VIDEO_ENCODER_MARK_CURRENT_WITH_LTR_INDEX	-1	-1	-1	-1
	AMF_VIDEO_ENCODER_FORCE_LTR_REFERENCE_BITFIELD	0x0	0x0	0x0	0x0
	AMF_VIDEO_ENCODER_ROI_DATA	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

^{*} BPicturesDeltaQP, ReferenceBPicturesDeltaQP, IntraRefreshNumMBsPerSlot, BPicturesPattern and BReferenceEnable parameters are available only when:

- MaxOfReferenceFrames is greater than 1
- NumOfLTR is 0 (LTR is not used)

^{**} HeaderInsertionSpacing: Every IDR frame has SPS and PPS regardless of default value of HeaderInsertionSpacing per VCE logic.