LCEVC Deployment Readiness Checklist 2026

MPEG-5 Part 2 enhancement layer on top of H.264, HEVC, AV1 or VVC

Companion to article 3.9 of Block 3 (Codec Evolution). Print on A4 or US Letter. Fora Soft Learn

LCEVC in one paragraph — the layer that fits on top of every codec you already ship

- **LCEVC:** ISO/IEC 23094-2:2021. MPEG-5 Part 2. Single-vendor licence (V-Nova).
- **Compression:** 28-42% under H.264, 10-25% under HEVC, 10-22% under AV1, up to 54% under VVC (UHD sport).
- **Speed:** Encode 2-3x faster than base codec at full resolution. Decode +10-20% CPU on top of HW base.
- **Licence:** Free integration. $0.20 per consumer device. Free for free-to-air broadcasters.
- **Reference encoder:** LTM (test model). V-Nova SDK plugs into x264, x265, libvpx, libaom, SVT-AV1, NVENC, QSV.
- **Reference decoder:** LCEVCdec, BSD-3 (github.com/v-novaltd/LCEVCdec). FFmpeg, GStreamer 1.26, Shaka Player 4.3+.

Deployment fitness — score 0 to 3 per row, multiply at the bottom

Question	0 - poor fit	3 - strong fit	Score
Dominant base codec	*VVC only*	*H.264 / HEVC*	____
Viewer device base	*Refreshes annually*	*Legacy STB / TV / mobile*	____
Player control	*Third-party firmware*	*We ship the player*	____
Encode budget pressure	*Low*	*Cloud cost growing*	____
CDN bill sensitivity	*Flat-rate*	*Per-GB pricing*	____
Licensing tolerance	*Royalty-free only*	*Single-pool OK at $0.20*	____
Pilot capacity	*No A/B framework*	*5% traffic slice ready*	____
Total (0-21)			____

0-7 = wait. 8-14 = pilot on a 5% slice. 15-21 = roll out across the ladder.

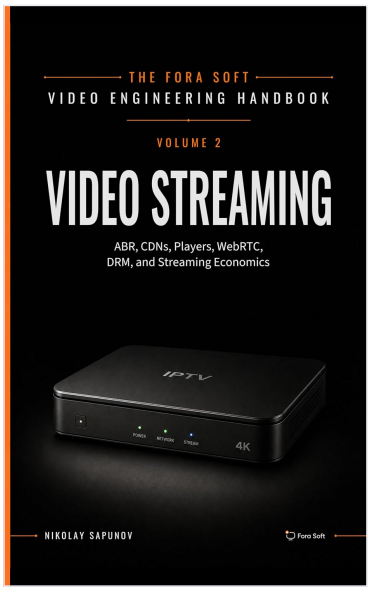
Player and SDK coverage — May 2026

Platform	Integration	Status
Web (browsers)	Shaka Player 4.3+, dash.js	**Shipping**
GStreamer pipelines	lcevcdec / lcevcenc plugins (1.26)	**Shipping March 2025**
FFmpeg	V-Nova SDK + libvvdec	**Shipping**
Android	ExoPlayer + V-Nova SDK	**Shipping**
iOS / Apple TV	VLCKit + V-Nova SDK	**Shipping**
Smart TV / STB	MainConcept, NETINT, Realtek SoC	**Shipping (DTV+ devices late 2026)**
Encode farms	x264, x265, libaom, SVT-AV1, NVENC, QSV	**Shipping via V-Nova SDK**

V-Nova licensing snapshot (announced August 2025)

- **Integration:** free (no per-implementation fee on encoders, decoders, players).
- **Consumer devices:** $0.20 per device with the open-access discount baked in.
- **Video distribution services:** per-subscriber royalty, $8M annual cap for early signers (sign by Dec 31 2026).
- **Free-to-air broadcasters:** no royalty. This is the clause that unblocks Brazil TV 3.0 / DTV+.

Companion to: 'LCEVC (MPEG-5 Part 2): An Enhancement Layer on Top of Any Codec'
www.forasoft.com/learn/video-encoding/articles/lcevc-explained



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This checklist scores whether an LCEVC enhancement layer pays off for your service and shows where players and SDKs support it. Volume 3 covers the delivery side that decides the payback: ABR ladders and rung selection, CDN caching and egress costs, player integration and recovery, and the economics of streaming at scale.

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