

Communicating Stems

Increasingly, artists release not only fully-mastered sound recordings but also some of the “stems” that contributed to those sound recordings. ERN-4 allows communicating stems in two ways, depending on the approach taken by the record company and artist:

An artist may choose to release one or more stems as part of a “normal” album or single.

In that case, the stem metadata needs to be communicated in a `SoundRecording` composite with the `SoundRecordingType` set to `AudioStem`. As a consequence, each of the stems is, like any other `SoundRecording`, provided in a separate audio resource file.

All other aspects of the `NewReleaseMessage` are the same as for a `Release` without any stems.

Alternatively, an artist may choose to release a collection of stems.

This “stem bundle” may comprise only stems or a combination of stems and fully-mastered sound recordings – but with the focus on the stems.

In this case, all stems need to be communicated as in the previous case, as `SoundRecording` composites with the `SoundRecordingType` set to `AudioStem` and all non-stem sound recordings need to have their `SoundRecordingType` set to, for instance `MusicalWorkSoundRecording`.

In addition, the stem-centric `Release` must have a `ReleaseType` of `StemBundle`.

A record company may also release a stem bundle where all stems are collated into a single file (e.g. as MPEG-4 Audio objects). DDEX is in the process of developing a solution for such cases. DDEX will update this article once a solution has been agreed.