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DVB ISSUES RENEWED CALL FOR DECLARATIONS OF IPRS POTENTIALLY ESSENTIAL TO ITS MHP SPECIFICATION

Geneva – 27th June 2006 – The DVB Project today issued a renewed call for declarations of intellectual property rights which might be essential to its MHP specification. Owners of patents, and others, are asked to declare such IPRs directly to the DVB Project office. The DVB is currently reviewing its MHP specification (ETSI TS 101 812 (MHP)) and the licensing terms offered by rights holders. The declarations submitted under this call will be important for this review.

Under this renewed call:

- A holder of patents or other IPR which might be essential to the MHP specification may make a declaration;
- Such a declaration may also be made by a third party with knowledge of such IPR;
- The content of the declaration will be available to the members of the DVB Project and its modules;
- The information from the declarations made pursuant to this call may be used within DVB in making choices among technologies for MHP.

In 2003, DVB made a first call for declarations of IPRs essential to MHP. These declarations served as a starting point for the formation of a licensing programme (“patent pool”) for MHP. The terms proposed by this pool for licensing essential IPR have disquieted many DVB members. The disquiet has in part prompted this renewed call for declarations.

Declarations may be made to, and further information obtained from, mhpdeclaration@dvb.org. Evaluations of initial submissions will be made on Friday, 8th September 2006.

Background

The DVB Project

The Digital Video Broadcasting Project (DVB) is an industry-led consortium of over 250 broadcasters, manufacturers, network operators, software developers, regulatory bodies and others in over 35 countries committed to designing global standards for the delivery of digital television and data services. The DVB standards cover all aspects of digital television from transmission through interfacing, conditional access and interactivity for digital video, audio and data. The consortium came together in 1993 to create unity in the march towards global standardisation, interoperability and future proofing.

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To date, there are numerous broadcast services using DVB standards. There are hundreds of manufacturers offering DVB compliant equipment, which is already in use around the world. DVB dominates the digital broadcasting world. A host of other services is also on-air with DVB-T, DVB-S and DVB-C including data on the move and high-bandwidth Internet over the air. Further information about DVB can be found at: www.dvb.org, www.dvb-h.org, and www.mhp.org.

DVB Multimedia Home Platform (MHP)

MHP defines a generic interface between interactive digital applications and the terminals on which those applications are executed. The standard enables digital content providers to address all types of terminals ranging from low to high-end set-top boxes, IDTVs and multimedia PCs. With MHP, DVB extends its successful open standards for broadcast and interactive services in all transmission networks including satellite, cable terrestrial and wireless systems. Further information on MHP can be found at: www.mhp.org.

Second Call for Declarations

The declarations, submitted by rights holders or by third parties, of patents potentially essential to the MHP specification will be used to identify functionalities with overly onerous patents. The submission of declarations complements other activities within DVB, including a patent search. Once onerous IPRs have been identified, DVB may give consideration to developing a further MHP specification without the related functionalities or with alternatives.

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This press release is available in Brazilian Portuguese, Latin American Spanish, and Chinese languages by request or can be downloaded from the DVB website.