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EUROPE'S LEADING CABLE OPERATORS SIGNAL THEIR SUPPORT FOR DVB-C2

22 September 2009 – Nine of Europe's leading cable network operators, representing more than 35 million connected homes, have shown their immediate support and declared their intention to exploit the operational potential of DVB-C2. In a signed statement cable network operators YouSee (Denmark), Numericable (France), Kabel Baden Württemberg, Unitymedia, Kabel Deutschland (Germany), Ziggo (The Netherlands), ZON (Portugal), ONO (Spain) and Com Hem (Sweden) welcomed DVB-C2, the second generation baseline transmission system for digital television broadcasting via cable networks.

Peter Siebert, Executive Director, DVB Project commenting on the statement said, "We are pleased with the support for DVB-C2, the youngest member of the DVB family of second generation transmission systems. The new standard will provide the additional capacity required for the introduction of new tiers of HDTV, video-on-demand and interactive TV services providing real opportunities for MSOs."

DVB-C2 employs the latest modulation and coding techniques to enable highly efficient use of cable networks. It offers a range of modes and options that can be optimised for the different network characteristics and the requirements of the different services planned for delivery to cable customers. It offers greater than 30% higher spectrum efficiency under the same conditions as today's DVB-C deployments. After analogue switch-off the gains in downstream capacity will be greater than 60% for optimised HFC networks.

Christoph Schaaf, of Kabel Deutschland and Chairman of the DVB TM-C2 Group stated, "MSOs can see a real opportunity in the enhanced efficiency and flexibility of DVB-C2, especially when planning the introduction of new services or deployment of new emerging technologies."

In instances where downstream transmission capacity is already being used to its limit, DVB-C2 can be deployed for the delivery of innovative new services, such as video-on-demand and HDTV. DVB-C2 was designed to help digital operators remain competitive and meet the permanently growing demand for downstream capacity.

Europe's Leading Cable Operators Signal Their Support For DVB-C2

DVB-C2 is typified by the following characteristic:

- DVB-C uses QAM (16,32, 64, 128, 256-QAM) but DVB-C2 adds COFDM and higher order QAM (all the way up to 65536-QAM);
- a flexible input stream adapter, suitable for operation with single and multiple input streams of various formats (packetised or continuous);
- a powerful FEC system based on LDPC (Low-Density Parity Check) codes concatenated with BCH (Bose Chaudhuri Hocquenghem) codes, allowing Quasi Error Free operation close to the Shannon limit, depending on the transmission mode (AWGN channel, modulation constrained Shannon limit);
- a wide range of code rates (from 2/3 up to 9/10); 5 constellations, ranging in spectrum efficiency from 1 to 10.8 bit/s/Hz, optimised for operation in cable networks;
- Adaptive Coding and Modulation (ACM) functionality, optimising channel coding and modulation on a frame-by-frame basis.

DVB-C2 is to be published by ETSI (European Telecommunications Standards Institute) as EN 302 769 V1.1.1. Further information on DVB-C2 can be found on the DVB website along with the DVB BlueBook A138.

Background

The DVB Project

The Digital Video Broadcasting Project (DVB) is an industry-led consortium of over 280 broadcasters, manufacturers, network operators, software developers, regulatory bodies and others committed to designing global standards for the delivery of digital television and data services. 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.

DVB dominates the digital broadcasting environment with thousands of broadcast services around the world using DVB's open standards. There are hundreds of manufacturers offering DVB compliant equipment. DVB standards are also widely used for other non-broadcasting applications such as 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, www.mhp.org and www.dvbworld.org.

DVB is a registered trademark of the DVB Project.