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ASEAN NATIONS ENDORSE DVB-T FOR REGION

Singapore – 19 June 2007 – DVB welcomes the decision by the ministers of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to endorse DVB-T as the ASEAN common digital terrestrial broadcasting standard. The announcement came in a joint media statement of the Ninth Conference of the ASEAN Ministers Responsible for Information (AMRI) held on the 24th of May in Jakarta, Indonesia.

In the announcement the ministers acknowledged that digital broadcasting will usher in a new era of growth and investment in the broadcast sector. The ministers noted that the DVB-T standard was the most commonly adopted international DTV standard and would offer the most advantages in terms of economies of scale, ease of adoption and versatility for multiple platforms. It was agreed that the nations would undertake further discussions on detailed policy considerations in planning for analogue switch-off and noted the proposal by some member countries for ASEAN to work towards 2015 as a common switch-off date, subject to the ability of individual ASEAN member countries given their geographical and human resource challenges.

Remarking on the announcement, John Bigeni, DVB's Asia-Pacific representative had this to say "The DVB Project is delighted to hear the news of the recent adoption of the DVB-T standard by the ASEAN countries as their digital terrestrial television system. Digital TV brings many challenges and opportunities to the industry, and the choice of DVB-T is an endorsement of the DVB's open, market-led approach to developing standards. DVB will continue to work closely with the stakeholders in the region to help them join the family producing the digital TV systems of the future."

Peter MacAvock, Executive Director, DVB commented further "DVB welcomes the endorsement by the ASEAN ministers and would like to take this opportunity to thank all parties that have contributed to bringing forth this important decision. DVB standards will provide the people of the region with the highest quality digital services that are already being enjoyed in many countries around the world."

ASEAN Nations Endorse DVB-T For Region

Background

The DVB Project

The Digital Video Broadcasting Project (DVB) is an industry-led consortium of over 260 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.

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 with over 160 million receivers deployed. 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.

DVB-T (Terrestrial)

The DVB-T system specification for terrestrial digital television was approved by ETSI in February 1997. The first DVB-T services were launched in 1998 in Europe with subsequent deployments throughout the world. As with the other DVB standards, MPEG-2 sound and vision coding forms the basis of DVB-T. Other elements of the DVB-T specification include: a transmission scheme based on Coded Orthogonal Frequency Division Multiplexing (COFDM), which allows for the use of either 1705 carriers (usually known as '2k'), or 6817 carriers ('8k'); concatenated error correcting. The '2k' mode is suitable for single transmitter operation and for relatively small single frequency networks with limited transmitter power. The '8k' mode can be used both for single transmitter operation and for large area single frequency networks.

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About ASEAN

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) was established on 8 August 1967 in Bangkok by the five original member countries, namely, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand. Brunei Darussalam joined on 8 January 1984, Vietnam on 28 July 1995, Lao PDR and Myanmar on 23 July 1997, and Cambodia on 30 April 1999.

The ASEAN region has a population of about 500 million, a total area of 4.5 million square kilometers, a combined gross domestic product of almost US\$ 700 billion, and a total trade of about US\$ 850 billion.

The aims and purposes of the Association are: to accelerate economic growth, social progress and cultural development in the region and to promote regional peace and stability through abiding respect for justice and the rule of law in the relationship among countries in the region and adherence to the principles of the United Nations Charter. Further information about ASEAN can be found at: www.aseansec.org.