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3DTV ON COURSE FOR STANDARDISATION

DVB Moves On Frame Compatible Approach To Ordered And Standardised Broadcast & Cablecast 3DTV

Amsterdam – 10 September 2010 – Following the approval of the Commercial Requirements for a 3DTV Frame Compatible Plano-Stereoscopic system by the DVB Steering Board on 2 July, DVB - anticipates completion of the specification for DVB-3DTV by the end of 2010.

The 20 Commercial Requirements agreed upon by the Steering Board were formulated to meet the demand of providing 3DTV by making use of existing HDTV set-top boxes. The approach specifies the delivery of two images, the Left and Right eye signals to be arranged in what is known as a spatial multiplex, so that they can be seen with depth on a 3D display using special glasses. The signal appears to the set-top box to be an HD signal that is then decoded and passed onto the display as an HDTV picture. The display then unravels the picture to create the Left and Right eyes' images for 3D viewing. Viewers will need a new display, but not a new set-top box. This is known as the "Frame Compatible Approach".

The Frame Compatible spatial multiplex could take any one of a large number of technical forms. One of the critical tasks was to define a minimum set of Frame Compatible formats that would meet worldwide requirements. This had to take into account the needs of the interface from the set-top box to the display (the HDMI 1.4 connection) and the use of many HDTV formats, i.e., 720p/50 or 60, 1080i/50 or 60, and 1080p/24, for HDTV broadcasting. The DVB commercial requirements specify eight formats that will form the DVB Frame Compatible system. These are given in the Commercial Requirements document.

The specification will also provide a mechanism that allows subtitles and other onscreen graphics to be best positioned so that they can be viewed correctly in the stereoscopic picture.

The Requirements can be found in full in DVB BlueBook A151 "Commercial Requirements for DVB-3DTV", which can be downloaded from the DVB website.

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“DVB’s Technical Module is actively working on a specification to meet the Commercial Requirements. This work should also provide useful input to the other bodies working on 3DTV. We believe the die has been cast on ordered and standardised broadcast and cablecast 3DTV for the Frame Compatible community,” said David Wood, chair of DVB’s Commercial Module for 3DTV.

About DVB

Digital Video Broadcasting (DVB) is an industry-led consortium of over 250 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 move 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. To date there are over half a billion DVB receivers shipped worldwide. 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.

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