



PRESS RELEASE

EUROPEAN DIGITAL TELEVISION: PROGRESS IN "PAY-TV" SYSTEM.

Frankfurt, 19th May 1994 - The DVB project continues to make progress in Conditional Access ("PAY-TV") for tomorrow's digital television broadcasting services. After cable and satellite transmission standards have been proposed, the DVB project has now developed a common scrambling/descrambling method for use in DVB systems, and the work was approved by the DVB Steering Board at its meeting in Frankfurt. This represents another significant milestone on the road to digital television in Europe.

DVB Steering Board Chairman Peter Kahl said, "The development of a Common Scrambling System represents an important achievement for the DVB project, and for European broadcasting. It will help to minimise DVB IRD (Integrated Receiver Decoder) costs to the benefit of both consumers and service providers."

At the DVB receiver (IRD), Conditional Access systems can be considered as having 2 parts: the "decryption" and the "descrambling" systems. The decryption system translates coded keys received by the IRD that are needed by the descrambler to work. The descrambler makes the received picture intelligible.

Detailed specifications of the DVB common scrambling/descrambling system will be made available to DVB signatories, with the specifications and use of the system restricted to appropriate organisations, who will abide by a confidentiality agreement.

The European DVB project now comprises more than 135 Member organisations, from every area of the broadcasting industry. Work continues on other aspects of Conditional Access, such as interfaces for the decryption system, and the prospects for wider use of proprietary systems.

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