DVB shows Conditional Access common sense

LAS VEGAS, April 6 1997. For digital pay-television to remain viable as the number of available pay-TV services increase, consumer set top boxes need to remain affordable and easy to use for the average viewer. The costs of buying a different box for each subscribed channel will be prohibitive to most consumers. It is becoming vital for competing conditional access systems to easily co-exist in the same box.

The Digital Video Broadcasting Project (DVB) will be demonstrating one of DVB’s solutions for enabling a single STB, or more technically, integrated receiver-decoder or IRD, to decode multiple conditional access encrypted signals.

In addition to solutions such as SimulCrypt, the DVB project has developed the DVB Common Interface for Scrambling Systems specification which allows a single receiver fitted with the DVB-CI to use a number of different conditional access systems, an arrangement known as MultiCrypt.

The DVB Common Interface operates at the MPEG-2 transport stream level, and may also be useful for other applications, such as enabling different decoders or data broadcasting applications to be used on a particular receiver.

One of these conditional access assisting solutions, known as SimulCrypt, will be demonstrated at the DVB booth. In a remarkable display of how multiple CA systems can work together. DVB will show IRDs from News Digital Systems (NDS) and Canal+, which will decode the same video stream using two different CA systems.

Both alternatives have been developed through the close collaboration of DVB members. Such a remarkable achievement shows the spirit of commitment and economic common sense which is the hallmark of the DVB project. See the SimulCrypt demonstration at 11 am and 3 pm every day in the Lobby of the LVCC, Special Technology Exhibition Area.

Background

The Digital Video Broadcasting Project (DVB) is a consortium of over 200 broadcasters, manufacturers, network operators and regulatory bodies in more than 30 countries worldwide, committed to designing a global standard for the delivery of digital television. Numerous broadcast services using DVB standards are now operational, in Europe, North and South America, Africa, Asia, and Australasia.