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*For Immediate Release*

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## ***DVB takes major step towards harmonised multimedia home platform***

Geneva, 10 December 1997 - Today in Geneva, the Steering Board of the Digital Video Broadcasting (DVB) Project endorsed a set of functional requirements for running applications on advanced set top boxes, TV sets and multimedia PCs for digital broadcasting.

This endorsement by the DVB Steering Board is the first step in the development of open technical specifications for a Multimedia Home Platform (MHP). These specifications are targeted for completion by June 1998 and will be put forward as proposals for non-mandatory standards to European and International Standards bodies.

The goal for DVB is to provide an open solution, enabling multiple service providers to operate through a compatible cost-effective receiver in the home, while fully recognising the investments already made by broadcasters and consumers in existing systems. A compatible receiver platform will form the basis for a greatly expanded market, which in turn will give end users, content providers and network operators confidence in their investments.

The DVB specifications will include a receiver API (application programming interface), download mechanisms for applications, software, and related functions. These will meet the need for the next generation of interactive services, including Internet access. A guiding principle of the specifications is that they will be as compatible as possible with existing API's and systems (e.g. OpenTV, MediaHighway, d-Box Network)

The functional requirements have been developed by the Multimedia Home Platform (MHP) group of the DVB Commercial Module and will be used by the DVB Technical Module to produce specifications. Once complete, the specifications will need to be endorsed by the DVB Steering Board.

Using this approach in the past, DVB has consistently ensured that its output has matched the demands of the growing digital broadcasting market.

Mr. Theo Peek, chairman of the DVB Project said:

"It is an important step forward for the DVB project, and a major achievement to reach consensus from so many key digital broadcasting industry players on such a complex issue. Platform harmonisation means that any digital content provider will be able to address any advanced set top box, TV set or multimedia PC."

## ***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.