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For Immediate Release

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DVB-T Trials for Singapore

World Trade Centre, Singapore, June 4 1998 – The Singapore Broadcasting Authority (SBA) and the DVB Project have agreed on the format and timing of the Singapore trials of the DVB-T Digital Terrestrial TV Broadcasting system. The trials will be conducted from June 29th to July 13th.

The trials will feature a Single Frequency Network (SFN) transmitting standard definition television, synchronised using an asynchronous transfer mode (ATM) network.

For the first time outside Europe, the unique ability of DVB-T to be used in Single Frequency Networks is being tested. Another remarkable world first is the use of an ATM network to carry the MPEG-2 digital television between each individual SFN transmitter to the other.

Advantages of ATM are its high bandwidth (up to 155 Mb/s), and capacity to carry any multimedia content, making it the logical choice also for the Singapore ONE network, the key initiative in the country's drive towards a knowledge-based economy. As both digital television and Singapore ONE are using ATM, the complete integration of digital TV as part of Singapore ONE becomes possible.

Single frequency networks allow multiple transmitters to cover large areas with a single frequency, which solves many problems in network planning, and efficiency of spectrum usage. Because DVB-T uses the advanced OFDM modulation scheme, it is highly robust, and can be easily received in the overlap between two transmitters operating on a single frequency.

The rugged multi-carrier OFDM system used by DVB-T even supports mobile television reception, as was demonstrated during the BroadcastAsia 98. For true mobile interactivity, DVB's GSM return channel would be used to carry requests from users back to the source. Since all DVB systems are transparent to all kinds of multimedia content, across any delivery medium from Cable to Terrestrial, DVB-T could be used in providing wireless broadband data on the move.

This means that what will be tested in Singapore could deliver digital broadcast services covering the whole spectrum from television to Internet over the air.

Mr Herbert Haberl (Deutsche Telekom), the Chairman of DVB Asia, said:

“The possibility of bringing content of any kind in any form directly to users wherever they are, via a wireless broadband channel in the air is one of the chief advantages of DVB. I live in Singapore and I look forward to being able to use such a system myself.”

Since November 1997, the Digital Television Technical Committee, under the auspices of the SBA has been investigating the options for the transition to digital in Singapore terrestrial broadcasting.

Mr Tay Joo Thong, Chairman of the Committee, said, “The DVB field test results, collected together with results of field trials of other DTV systems, will enable us to make the best decision for Singapore.”

Background

The Digital Video Broadcasting Project (DVB) is a consortium of over 220 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.