

How to identify DVB-MHP Products - The Self-Compliance Scheme

the DVB-MHP Test Suite will be in place for approval. All licensing arrangements and the MHP legal documentation can be downloaded from www.mhp.org website under the link 'MHP Compliance'.

The DVB knows that the MHP ready products at IFA are a clear indication of the imminence of DVB-MHP 'badged' products that will be available in the retail environment at the end of 2001, beginning of 2002. Theo Peek, Chairman of the DVB said "I would like to take this opportunity of thanking all the players involved in this process and I am extremely proud to say that this commitment at IFA from the DVB membership and its MHP friends has once again shown great achievement in standardisation and market making. This is definitely a major step in the creation of a common, interoperable and future proof digital television market for the benefit of the whole value chain right to consumer level".

Background

The DVB Project

The Digital Video Broadcasting Project (DVB) is an industry-led consortium of over 300 broadcasters, manufacturers, network operators, software developers, regulatory bodies and others in over 35 countries committed to designing global standards for the delivery of digital television and data services. The 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 march towards global standardisation, interoperability and future proofing.

To date, there are numerous broadcast services using DVB standards. There are hundreds of manufacturers offering DVB compliant equipment, which is already in use around the world. DVB dominates the digital broadcasting world. A host of other services is also on-air with DVB-T, DVB-S and DVB-C including data on the move and high-bandwidth Internet over the air. Further information about DVB can be found at: www.dvb.org.

DVB Multimedia Home Platform (MHP)

DVB-MHP was ratified last year by the DVB Steering Board and was formally adopted by the European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI) (ETSI TS 101 812 (MHP)). This action paved the way for the deployment of the open standard API (Application Program Interface), which now facilitates seamless services across broadcast, telecommunications and computer platforms. MHP defines a generic interface between interactive digital applications and the terminals on which those applications execute. The standard enables digital content providers to address all types of terminals ranging from low to high-end set-top boxes, IDTVs and multimedia PCs. With MHP, DVB extends its successful open standards for broadcast and interactive services in all transmissions networks including satellite, cable terrestrial and wireless systems. The DVB-SB, in balancing the needs of all its members, endorsed the work on developing MHP standards on the basis that it's adoption should be voluntary and not mandated. Further information on MHP can be found at: www.mhp.org.

ETSI

ETSI is a non-profit making organisation whose mission is to produce the telecommunications standards that will be used for decades to come throughout Europe and beyond. Based in Sophia Antipolis (France), ETSI unites 889 members from 54 countries inside and outside Europe, and represents manufacturers, network operators, administrations, service providers, research bodies and users.

ETSI plays a major role in developing a wide range of standards and other technical documentation as Europe's contribution to worldwide standardisation in telecommunications, broadcasting and information technology. ETSI's prime objective is to support global harmonisation by providing a forum in which all the key players can contribute actively. ETSI is officially recognised by the European Commission and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA). Information on ETSI can be found at: www.etsi.org.

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