How To Identify DVB-MHP Products – The Self-Compliance Scheme

Geneva, 24th August 2001 - The launch of MHP ready products running MHP applications at this year's consumer electronics fair IFA, Berlin is the first public ‘stepping out’ in an already massive commitment by the consumer electronics, broadcasters and many other industry players to bring to the consumer the look and feel of DVB-MHP. This common denominator specification will bring the enhanced, interactive and Internet elements of digital television across all platforms (Terrestrial, Satellite & Cable) to an audience hungry for a new TV experience.

In order that DVB remains true to its goals of interoperability the Group, since conception, has run a ‘Self Compliant’ testing regime so that any product made using the DVB specifications is declared that it complies to the specification or specifications it was manufactured against. This product is then registered with DVB and then placed in the publicly accessible DVB Compliant Equipment Database, the same regime will be adopted for the DVB-MHP specification. However as this is a more complicated ‘software specification’ it will require a more stringent set of procedures in order that a manufacturer of MHP enabled devices is able to use the MHP logo as an identifier on the equipment fascia. This process is presently being finalised.

This Self Compliance process is jointly managed by ETSI (European Telecommunications Standards Institute) who has been selected to act as the Custodian1 of the required ‘test suites’ that verify MHP compliance and the DVB Project Office who are the owners of the MHP logo.

The basic process is as follows:

1. Company wants to make an MHP enabled device/application
2. Requests the DVB-MHP Test Suite2 from Custodian, pays 1000 Euro administration fee
3. Custodian issues test suites
4. Company tests device and lodges Test Certificate3 with Custodian
5. Custodian informs DVB of Completion of tests
6. Company pays 10,000 Euros maintenance fee to DVB for logo
7. DVB issues DVB MHP Logo to company and registers product in the database
8. Company badges product

The MHP Experts (MEG) group4, which is another link in this MHP chain has so far obtained and tested a large portion of the test suites that are required. The MEG is in the process of gathering all the additional material to complete this part of the equation, estimating that by the SB meeting in October

1 Custodian established in order to handle the issuing of test suites and certificates of compliance.
2 The DVB-MHP Test Suite is used to check that the implementation complies with the MHP specification.
3 Certificate declaring that all test suites have been passed
4 DVB Experts verifying all the ‘test suites’ into the test suite pool before issue to the custodian.
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.

If you or a colleague would like to receive DVB press releases via e-mail please send your request to: news@whdpr.com.