

DVB Forms Liaison With 3D@Home Consortium

Services using DVB-3DTV are already available in a number of countries (US, UK, France, Spain, Germany, etc.) by satellite and broadband. Initial terrestrial broadcasts were made in the UK in summer 2011. Many sporting events of world scale are now shot in 3D and broadcast using the DVB-3DTV system. 3DTV consumer displays are available throughout the world that can interpret the DVB-3DTV signals.

The DVB Steering Board recently approved the Commercial Requirements for a second 3DTV delivery system. Termed 'Service Compatible', the second system is a solution required by content deliverers that enables the 2D and 3D versions of a programme to be broadcast within the same video signal, so that new 3D televisions and next-generation STBs can receive 3D programmes, while consumers with existing 2D HDTV receivers and set-top boxes can watch the 2D version. This 2D picture will probably be either the left or right image of the 'stereo pair'. This second approach is termed DVB-3DTV Phase 2a.

Phase 2a will provide additional opportunities for 3DTV services, complementing the first specification. The DVB is also taking into account the requirements of content deliverers wanting to continue the use of a Phase 1 signal, but wish to provide additional information to improve the image quality for those with 'new' receivers. This may result in a Phase 2b specification in due time.

The terms 'Frame Compatible' and 'Service Compatible' follow ITU terminology.

About DVB

Digital Video Broadcasting (DVB) is an industry-led consortium of over 230 broadcasters, manufacturers, network operators, software developers, regulatory bodies and others committed to designing global standards for the delivery of digital television and data services. 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 move towards global standardization, interoperability and future proofing.

DVB dominates the digital broadcasting environment with thousands of broadcast services around the world using DVB's open standards. There are hundreds of manufacturers offering DVB compliant equipment. To date there are over half a billion DVB receivers shipped worldwide. DVB standards are also widely used for other non-broadcasting applications such as data on the move and high-bandwidth internet over the air. Further information about DVB can be found at: www.dvb.org, www.mhp.org, www.dvbservices.com and www.dvbworld.org.

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