



PRESS RELEASE

DVB AGREES FINAL ELEMENTS OF CONDITIONAL ACCESS PACKAGE

Frankfurt, 7 March 1995 - The Steering Board of the European Project Digital Video Broadcasting (DVB), under the chairmanship of Mr Peter Kahl, adopted during its 9th meeting the specification for a "Common Interface for Conditional Access and Other Applications in Digital Video Broadcasting Decoders", and "Recommendations on Antipiracy Legislation". They are the last items to be presented under the DVB Conditional Access Package adopted by the DVB in September 1994.

The Recommendations on Anti Piracy Legislation will be submitted to the European Commission and to the Council of Europe. The Steering Board of the DVB declared that adequate legislation against piracy is a necessary complement to technical security measures. It also recommended that a European Directive on audiovisual piracy and the legal protection of encrypted television signals, addressing the novel factors presented by digital video broadcasting, should be considered by the Council and the Commission.

The Common Interface was developed to allow for the physical separation between receiver functions on one hand, and the conditional access and descrambling functions on the other. In approving the specification for the Common Interface, the DVB Steering Board restated its position that the inclusion of a common interface in receivers should remain optional.

The Steering Board's approval means that this specification for a Common Interface will become a publicly available document and will be transmitted to other interested groups around the world.

In the future, the Common Interface could be expanded to accommodate extensions to the receiver such as advanced electronic programme guides, tuners for television delivery over telephone wire or for terrestrial digital television reception.

For further information, please contact:

DVB Project Office, c/o European Broadcasting Union, Geneva, Switzerland.

Tel: +41 22 717 2719
Fax: +41 22 717 2727

The seven points of the DVB Conditional Access Package approved last September were :

1. Two routes to develop the market for digital television reception should be encouraged: Receivers incorporating a single conditional access system (the Simulcrypt route), and Receivers with a common interface, allowing for the use of multiple conditional access systems (the Multicrypt route).
2. The definition of a Common Scrambling Algorithm and its inclusion, in Europe, in all receivers able to descramble digital signals. This enables the concept of the single receiver in the home of the consumer.
3. The drafting of a Code of Conduct for Access to Digital Decoders, applying to all conditional access providers.
4. The development of a Common Interface Specification.
5. The drafting by the DVB of Antipiracy Recommendations.
6. The licensing of conditional access systems to manufacturers should be on fair and reasonable terms, and should not prevent the inclusion of the Common Interface.
7. The conditional access systems used in Europe should allow for simple Transcontrol, for example, at cable headends, where cable operators should have the possibility to replace the conditional access data with their own data.

Annexes:

- Technical description of the Common Interface
- The DVB Recommendations on Antipiracy Legislation

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TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE COMMON INTERFACE

The interface lies between the DVB decoder required for unscrambled digital broadcasting and a conditional access module which can provide descrambling and conditional access functions. All the broadcast data sent to the decoder is transferred into the module, which descrambles services and sends the resulting data back to the host decoder. The designer of the module is able to build the CA part in whichever way he pleases, within the guidelines of the specification.

In specifying the interface, the DVB has used existing standards where possible. In particular, the connector and module on which the interface is based is the PCMCIA connection and card which is used widely in the Personal Computer industry. This standard has been adapted for use in the digital TV environment. It will be possible for existing Smart Card solutions to be adapted to the PCMCIA module, with the card reader incorporated in the PCMCIA module.

If the interface is used in decoders it will mean that it will be possible to deliver the decoder and conditional access separately, and that a number of different CA systems may be used with the same decoder. This will make it possible to make DVB decoders which are, for example, built into widescreen TV sets or Personal Computers, as well as making it possible to make 'Set Top Boxes' which include future types of CA system without replacement of the whole system.

The interface is designed so that it can be used to attach other functions, for example Electronic Programme Guides, without the host decoder having information about the details of the application.

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THE DVB RECOMMENDATIONS ON ANTIPIRACY LEGISLATION

The European Project - Digital Video Broadcasting recommends that

1. the European Union adopt a directive modeled after Recommendation No. R (91) 14 of the Council of Europe on the legal protection of encrypted television services

modified to take account of new factors in digital video broadcasting:

- a. the directive should be a constraining instrument applied across the European Union to ensure that there are no longer any "low-protection" countries;
- b. the sanctions, including penal sanctions, for audiovisual piracy should be sufficiently onerous to discourage commercial pirates;
- c. the definition of "Encrypted service" contained in the Recommendation should be broadened to extend protection to new media services; and
- d. confirmation that the protection within the European Union against counterfeit goods (notably Council Regulation (EC) No 3295/94 of 22 December 1994 laying down measures to prohibit the release for free circulation, export, re-export and entry for a suspensive procedure of counterfeit goods) are applicable against pirate decoders;

and further modified to reflect the experience within Europe of application of the Recommendation:

- e. personal possession of pirate digital decoders should be criminalized;
2. the European Commission and other institutions of the European Union include the directive referred to in paragraph 1 as a measure to be adopted by PECO states for the purpose of

improv[ing] the protection of intellectual, industrial and commercial property rights in order to provide a level of protection similar to that existing in the Community, including comparable means of enforcing such rights

under the respective Europe Agreements with such states (for example, Europe Agreement with Poland, art. 66(1), O.J. L 348/17 (31 Dec. 1993)); and

3. the Council of Europe continue its efforts to encourage adoption of the Recommendation by its member states and consider modification of the Recommendation consistent with paragraph 1.

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