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For Immediate Release

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Intelsat / ISOG announce results of interoperability tests

LAS VEGAS, April 6 1997. In an important watershed for digital television, Intelsat's Vince Walisko announced that in the tests, DVB-compliant equipment was found to interoperate at many different parameter combinations.

The tests were carried out by Intelsat and ISOG (Inter-union Satellite Operations Group), as a service to the general satellite broadcasting community, in the hope that interoperability issues could be identified and resolved by the community at large.

The tests were done on PAL and NTSC standard equipment from a number of manufacturers, which included: California Microwave/STS, DiviCom, DMV/NDS, Magnitude Compression Systems, Inc./General Instrument, Scientific Atlanta, Inc., Tadiran Scopus DVC, Tandberg Television, Thomson Broadcast Systems, Tiernan Communications, Inc., Wegener Communications, Inc.

Each of the tests involved the connection of an individual encoder from one of the manufacturers with a group of decoders from all of the manufacturers. The broadcasts were made over an Intelsat Satellite simulator.

Results were very encouraging. All the systems tested were found to be interoperable. It so happened that they were all DVB-compliant systems, and this is not surprising, given that DVB compliant equipment is fundamentally designed to be interoperable, all the way down the broadcasting chain.

CNN Vice President of Satellites and Circuits, Dave Tauber expressed the feeling of all broadcasters when he commented that his organisation would be choosing equipment which added value beyond interoperability only. Interoperability was the basic requirement which CNN would expect from a manufacturer.

Background

The Digital Video Broadcasting Project (DVB) is a consortium of over 200 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.