

May 2, 1997

For Immediate Release

Contact: Martin Jacklin, DVB Project Office
Ancienne Route 17A
1218 Grand Saconnex
Geneva, Switzerland

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

DVB approves Part 1 of SimulCrypt Specification

Geneva, 16th April 1997 - the Steering Board of the world-wide Digital Video Broadcasting Project (DVB) approved Part 1 of the SimulCrypt specification.

“SimulCrypt” is a process that facilitates using several Conditional Access (CA) systems in parallel, in conjunction with the DVB Common Scrambling Algorithm, to control access to pay-TV services.

SimulCrypt involves the interoperation of two or more Conditional Access Streams in a DVB environment. The DVB’s SimulCrypt specification addresses specifically the requirements for interoperability between two or more conditional access systems at a head-end.

The DVB SimulCrypt technical specification is divided into two parts:

- Part 1 - Head-end Architecture and Synchronisation.
- Part 2 - Extended Interoperability and Control.

The 16th April meeting of the DVB Steering Board has approved Part 1 of the specification, which will now be released to the EBU / CENELEC / ETSI Joint Technical Committee for standardisation. In the meantime, work continues in the DVB Project on Part 2 of the specification which will also be released to the JTC upon completion.

SimulCrypt forms an integral part of DVB’s Conditional Access Package, adding to its existing elements:

- DVB Common Scrambling Algorithm
- DVB Common Interface (EN 50221)
- Code of Conduct for Conditional Access
- Anti-piracy recommendations

While the DVB SimulCrypt specification is not mandatory for the interoperation of multiple conditional access systems, or “SimulCrypting”, it facilitates this. Upon completion of Part 2 of the specification, operators will have the choice of using either the new SimulCrypt specification or the existing Common Interface specification.

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.