

Contact: Harold Bergin
WHD Public Relations
P.O. Box 3035,
London SW1P 3BH
United Kingdom

Tel: +44 (0)20 7799 3100
Fax: +44 (0)20 7976 0922
E-mail: harold@whdpr.com

DVB-MHP RECEIVERS READY TO ROLLOUT

MHP Conformance Process Begins With DVB Steering Board Approval Of MHP Test Suite

3 July 2002 – The DVB Steering Board, the executive decision-making body of the DVB Project, approved the MHP (Multimedia Home Platform) Test Suite (Version 1.0.2a) at its 37th meeting. This will now go forward to ETSI (the European Telecommunications Standards Institute), and form the cornerstone of the MHP conformance process. Organisations will shortly be able to run the tests on their MHP implementations and gain the right to use the MHP logo.

With the approval of the MHP Test Suite, the leading companies in digital TV broadcasting worldwide have paved the way for the full rollout of the new open standard for running applications and interactive services on digital TV receivers.

Theo Peek, DVB Chairman, said, "The Test Suite is the final piece in the jigsaw for our MHP specification. The Test Suite, a special testing software, builds on the already completed technical standards, licensing agreements and branding." This enables the many different equipment manufacturers, broadcasters and service operators to produce MHP products and services that will work together in a reliable and predictable way.

Theo Peek concluded, "The result of an enormous effort by DVB members active in MHP, the release of the Test Suite will enable the MHP conformance process to truly get under way. Its completion will allow an implementer to use the MHP logo on these products in readiness for the launch of MHP enabled receivers. The first receivers are to be launched initially in the German and Scandinavian markets during Autumn 2002.

Furthermore, the measures the Board has put in place will ensure that early MHP product can be upgraded to reflect advances in the Test Suite before the end of the year."

Organisations seeking to carry the MHP logo on their product will use the Test Suite to check the conformance of their MHP implementations. Following successful completion of the Test Suite and notifying the results to the MHP Custodian (ETSI), organisations can apply to use the MHP logo. Reflecting in part the experience of implementers during commercial rollout and as a further assurance of interoperability among

implementations, the Test Suite will from time to time be upgraded and redistributed by the Custodian.

Background

The DVB Project

The Digital Video Broadcasting Project (DVB) is an industry-led consortium of some 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. Hundreds of manufacturers offer 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)

MHP defines a generic interface between interactive digital applications and the terminals on which those applications are executed. 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 transmission networks including satellite, cable terrestrial and wireless systems. Further information on MHP can be found at: www.mhp.org.

European Telecommunications Standards Institute

ETSI is a non-profit-making, independent organization whose mission is to produce the telecommunications standards that will be used for decades to come throughout Europe and beyond.

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 recognized by the European Commission and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA). For further information visit the ETSI website: www.etsi.org.

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