



PRESS RELEASE

for immediate release

9th September 2002

DTG Testing showcases DVB-T Test Streams at IBC

DTG Testing Limited was set up by the Digital Television Group to carry out interoperability testing on behalf of the digital TV receiver industry. One of the ongoing activities at the Test Centre is the creation and development of tools to enable conformance testing to be undertaken. These take the form of test suites comprising transport streams containing the test material, for application to the receiver under test via a COFDM modulator.

There are test suites for the following areas:

- MHEG API
- DSM-CC
- DVB-SI
- DVB Audio
- DVB Subtitles

For full details of the Test Suites, and all DTG and DTG Testing activities, visit the DTG stand – 9.549

In addition, there are specific tests for time-exclusive services and AFDs.

Most of the test suites have been developed in partnership with experts from other organisations..

The MHEG test suite builds on the earlier suite commissioned by TDN but has been extended substantially to cover the current UK MHEG-5 baseline receiver profile (v1.05). It is being further extended to cover the new specification, v1.06, due for release later this year. The assistance of members of the MHEG Experts Group in validating this test suite is gratefully acknowledged.

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The DSM-CC test suite was developed under contract by Strategy & Technology Ltd and now goes beyond the tests in the original DSM-CC test suite and includes stream objects.

Prodata Communications were contracted to produce the comprehensive DVB-SI test suite for the Centre. Again, this covers both normal and error conditions to test receiver robustness.

We have Eldon Technology to thank for the DVB audio test suite. This explores the various audio coding parameters available (even if not actually used in the UK) in the DVB specification.

The Subtitle test suite is being produced for the Test Centre by Softel in conjunction with experts from Screen Subtitling Systems and BBC R&D. It will be in four parts, covering normal operation, limit operation, extended operation and erroneous conditions.

To help manufacturers developing new receiver products, the test suites are available for use under licence from the Test Centre.

For further details of the suites and the licence arrangements, please contact David Bradshaw at the DTG Test Centre (01737 839839 or email dbradshaw@testing.dtg.org.uk).



DTG Test Suites –
available
on CD-ROM

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Notes for Editors

The Digital TV Group

The Digital TV Group (DTG) is a non-profit making company limited by guarantee whose members are its shareholders. Membership of the DTG is open to all companies who are members of the DVB or substantial contributors to DTV development.

The aims and objectives the DTG are:

- to work on behalf of the industry to develop digital television using the DVB family of standards across all platforms.
- to support the development of a horizontal and competitive market in receivers using published standards and in conformance with Directives of the European Commission and appropriate national bodies.

DTG Testing Ltd

DTG Testing Ltd is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Digital Television group (DTG). DTG Testing Limited was set up by the Digital Television Group to carry out interoperability testing on behalf of the digital TV receiver industry.

The Objectives of the Test Centre are:

To enable broadcasters to broadcast to a well-characterised set of receivers that meet the D-book requirements and do not inhibit service development. To assist receiver manufacturers develop products against better-qualified specifications To provide receiver developers with the tools that they require to test prototypes To improve interoperability of receivers in an open and horizontal market place and move towards a conformance test set. To assist in identifying areas of specification that are ambiguous or not adequately covered by the specifying documentation To share the risks and costs associated with this work.

The areas within the D-book specification for which the test methodologies are being developed are:

- MHEG API testing
- Common Interface testing
- SI and PSI signaling operations
- Audio and video testing, including AFDs
- Subtitle and audio description stream testing

Future areas of testing activity are expected to include:

- DVB MHP
- Personal Video recording
- Closed signing and audio description mechanisms
- Return channel developments

The Company test facilities are located at Kingswood Warren, Tadworth, Surrey, just a few kilometres north of Junction 8 on the M25. The site is shared with the BBC's R&D Department and the company, whilst independent of the BBC, has access to the wide range of skills that exist on the site

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Governance and Staffing

- DTG Testing Ltd is governed by a Board of Directors, comprising Executive and Non-Executive members according to its Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Board-level representation is available to those companies who become subscribing members of DTG Testing Ltd. This involves an annual subscription which goes towards the running costs of the Test Centre. These additional Directors make a valuable contribution to the industry-wide objectives of the Company.

David Bradshaw, formerly of BBC Research & Development, has been appointed to the position of Test Centre Manager.

Mode of Operation

The work of DTG Testing Ltd is supported by an Industry Liaison Group (ILG). Membership of this Group is by nomination by the members of the DTG and consists of technical experts. The Group meets regularly to make recommendations in support of the Test Centre objectives. The meetings of the Group are chaired by the Test Centre Manager who in turn makes recommendations for work packages to the board.

The Test Centre is establishing liaisons with other relevant bodies, including DVB, to ensure that its activities properly represent industry needs.

Representatives from other delivery platforms who support open and horizontal markets will be welcome to join.

The Test Centre does not undertake the production, or modification, of system specifications – rather, it produces test materials to support the implementation of adopted system specifications. Such methods and materials are, wherever possible, conformant with international standards.

The Centre has acquired and installed facilities for the purpose of creating, recording, replaying evaluating and developing test streams. It is also equipped with comprehensive RF test facilities capable of supporting the transmission formats currently under consideration for the UK and elsewhere.

As required, the Test Centre will undertake work for any future emerging horizontal receiver markets.

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