



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**for immediate release**

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### **Interoperability and open standards central to DTG activities**

**The twin goals of interoperability and the use of open standards have long been central to the cross-industry work of the Digital TV Group. Now, as the digital terrestrial television market shows continuing success following the launch of Freeview last November, the DTG's central role as the only cross-industry representative body in the UK is becoming ever more valuable to its members.**

The challenges of the all-digital future require industry collectively to ensure that the consumer proposition is clear and uncomplicated, and that it is technically sound. Through the DTG, industry is rising to this challenge, with work streams which encompass improvements in the functionality of existing technologies, the creation of practical demonstrators for emerging technologies, and collaborative work with other organisations to bring forward new open standardisation where it is required.

DTG technical working groups have a range of important activities underway to enhance the user experience and help DTG members provide successful products and services. Such activities include a review of the possibilities for improved DTT EPG services, agreement of a Code of Conduct for the use interactive applications, creation of a 'test-bed' for exploration of TV-Anytime metadata transmission and reception, development of a baseline standard for browsers built in to TV sets or set-top boxes and an R&D project for a digital video sender product for wireless in-home signal distribution.

Working closely with the Confederation of Aerial Industries, the DTG will shortly publish, jointly with the CAI, the results of work to benchmark terrestrial TV aerials for digital reception. A new MHEG-5 UK Profile - version 1.06 - will shortly be published, and work on a Baseline Receiver Specification is nearing completion.

DTG Testing Ltd., the DTG's wholly-owned subsidiary, continues to develop its receiver testing capability and has recently become responsible for the operation of the Engineering Channel, which is used by manufacturers for over-air downloading of software updates and bug fixes to receivers. Plans are at an early stage for the development of a facility to test interactive applications prior to transmission.

#### **More details from**

##### **Peter Marshall**

Technical Director, DTG

tel: 07768 356754

email: pmarshall@dtg.org.uk

##### **Marcus Coleman**

Director-General, DTG

tel: 079711 78648

email: mcoleman@dtg.org.uk

##### **Martin L. Bell**

Director of Communications, DTG

tel: 01206 243793; mobile: 07836 662325

email: mbell@dtg.org.uk

**The Digital TV Group is exhibiting at Mediacast 2003 (stand F54)**



## DTG Technical Working Groups

**D-Book Review Group:** The Group concern is to maintain the DTG D-Book as a specification of the operation of the DTT platform in the UK. The current version (v3.2) is currently under revision to accommodate 16QAM and other modes, establish baseline performance criteria for receivers and to resolve the question of transmitting a schedule in SI. Detailed work is carried out in a series of task-groups including the Receiver Taskgroup and the SI Taskgroup.

**Engineering Channel Group:** Advisory body to DTG Testing's operation to manage and verify software downloads to DTT receivers in the UK

**Interoperability Group:** Objective to establish a regime for testing all new applications prior to use and for managing cases of non-interoperability. A code of conduct between multiplex operators and receiver manufacturers is nearing final agreement.

**IP Services on TV :** A number of companies are now producing set-top boxes with built-in browsers. The group is looking to establish baseline standards that all browsers will support that can be assumed by content developers. In addition to the reference model, the group are assembling information about commercial models, regulatory regimes and other useful information for people working in the area.

**MHEG Group:** Expert group working on MHEG developments. Latest output is MHEG v1.06, which was ratified by TDN in April 2003 and is expected to be downloaded to current receivers in the latter part of 2003. Also supporting ETSI standardisation, MHEG – MHP coexistence and MHEG v2.0 enhancements including return path.

**PVR Signalling Group:** The aim of the sub-group is to enable the early deployment of UK digital television services and consumer equipment (PVRs) that enable "TV Anytime," functionality. A PVR testbed trial is planned on UK DTT, to take place later this year.

**Reception Group:** Working jointly with Confederation of Aerial Industries (CAI), the DTG is working to produce an aerial benchmark scheme to ensure that new installations use aerials and components that are suitable for DTT reception and to revise the R-Book series of guidance for aerial installers.

**RF Sub-group:** Forum for RF experts meeting under the auspices of DTG to review developments in Digital Terrestrial.

**Schedule Delivery Group:** Group comprising manufacturers and broadcasters working to establish agreed open standard mechanism for EPG on DTT. Close relationship with both SI Taskgroup and PVR Group.

**Test Centre Industry Liaison Group:** provides guidance from the wider DTG membership on the development of the DTG Test Centre.

**Wireless Home Network Group:** This group has paralleled the DVB WIN Group in defining future standards for wireless home networks. The problem for both groups is that the bulk of wireless network developments are very PC orientated and it has been an uphill task to get recognition of the requirements for television distribution in the home. The DTG WHN Group also provides liaison with the Radiocomms Agency (now becoming part of OfCom). Major task is the development and trial of a Digital Video Sender (DVS) for home distribution at 5.8GHz.

**Widescreen Forum:** The Forum deals with technical and marketing issues associated with widescreen broadcasting and receivers. Within it, the Production Systems Group is working on the detail of specific issues, including high definition, upconversion from SD to HD, and concatenation issues in production and post-production.



## NOTES FOR EDITORS

### About the Digital TV Group

**The Digital TV Group is the UK based DVB user-group, promoting digital TV based on open standards and the horizontal market. We work on behalf of our industry members towards the all-digital future for TV.**

**DTG membership brings a range of benefits to any organisation in the digital television industry.**

a regular forum to discuss latest technical developments and to formulate important communications within the industry

a recognised mechanism for lobbying government and regulatory bodies

access to information and key reference documents, including the UK 'D' Book receiver specification, via a members-only ftp site

preferential rates for receiver and application testing at DTG Testing

close contact with companies active in UK DVB-T implementation

opportunity to participate in the technical work of the DTG, through the activities of the working groups

free subscription to 'Digital News' the magazine of the DTG

opportunities to promote specific member activities within the industry

general networking opportunities

The DTG creates an environment that enables its members to:

- investigate and specify important technical standards
- influence the shape of the regulatory regime
- communicate effectively with each other

Over 100 member organisations value the business benefits that arise from first-hand participation in such activities. Members represent broadcasters, manufacturers, software writers, retailer and installer representatives, regulators and others, including a growing number of members from outside the UK.

Membership is available to all organisations committed to the promotion of digital TV based on published standards and the horizontal market.

The DTG is affiliated to DVB and a founder member of DigiTAG.