



PRESS RELEASE

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DTG Testing's interoperability regime nears completion

DTG Testing Ltd, the Digital TV Group's wholly-owned subsidiary, is close to completing a comprehensive interoperability regime for the UK's DTT receiver market.

The facility which allows manufacturers to download over-air software upgrades and bug-fixes - **The Engineering Channel** - is now fully under the new stewardship of DTG Testing. Already, it is being used extensively by a number of manufacturers to upgrade set-top boxes and iDTVs in viewer's homes to **the new version of MHEG-5, version 1.06**. DTG Testing is working closely with TDN - the 'club' of UK multiplex operators - to ensure a smooth transition. Applications using the new MHEG-5 upgrade are expected to begin to be broadcast later this year

DTG Testing's **Test Centre Services** continue to experience heavy demand from manufacturers who wish to run their pre-production receivers through a variety of tests. DTG Testing provides testing against the UK 'D-Book' specification, as well as offering **development support** in the form of **dry hire of Test Centre facilities**.

The Centre also makes available on CD-ROM a tranche of six test materials. These cover **MHEG-5, SI/PSI, Audio, Subtitles, Audio Description, and Object Carousel**. These materials can be purchased by manufacturers who wish to test in-house for self-validation purposes.

A recent addition to the services provided by DTG Testing is **the pre-broadcast validation of interactive applications**. This aspect of interoperability testing is now recognised as of crucial importance to the viewer's perception of trouble-free use of digital terrestrial television since it eliminates the possibility of a broadcast application either not running or, worse, crashing the receiver.

DTG Testing's Manager, David Bradshaw, said, "With this broad range of test and conformance services to the digital TV industry now well established and well-used, and with the continued good work of the DTG Conformance Group, which manages cases on non-interoperability of applications, the final jig-saw pieces of a fully interoperable DTT service are now falling into place."

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NOTES FOR EDITORS

More about the Engineering Channel

Under an agreement with BBC Broadcast Ltd., the DTG's wholly-owned subsidiary, DTG Testing Ltd., took on the management of the Engineering Channel on 5th May 2003.

A 50 kbit/s channel on the BBC multiplex is being leased to the DTG for use as an Engineering Channel: this multiplex has the benefit of having the best reach of the multiplexes and so downloads carried on it have the highest probability of being received throughout the UK. BBC Broadcast continues to provide the playout facility for the downloads but DTG Testing is now the point of contact for manufacturers and provides pre-transmission validation of the downloads as well as scheduling the playout of the downloads.

About a dozen manufacturers are users of the Engineering Channel, though this number continues to rise as new manufacturers launch products into the UK market. Discussions are in progress the manufacturers who will be using the Engineering Channel about making details of the download transmissions more public: it is expected that a schedule of downloads will be introduced as a regular service on the DTG website (<http://www.dtg.org.uk>) later this year.

NOTE: DTG Testing's facilities, which include a comprehensive 'zoo' of DTT receivers used for test purposes, are located at Kingswood Warren in Surrey, UK, co-located with the BBC Research and Development base.

About the DTG

The DTG was formed in 1995 to set technical standards for the implementation of digital terrestrial television (DTT) in the UK and now encompasses all digital TV platforms and convergence issues on a world-wide basis.

Membership of the DTG is open to all companies involved in digital TV broadcasting on all platforms with a commitment to published standards and open markets. We now have over 100 member companies which include broadcasters, platform operators, manufacturers, retailers, regulators and others, including a growing number of world affiliates.

The DTG...

- encourages an open market in receivers and set-top boxes.
- supports regulators' requirements for interoperability and open access.
- works in support of the Government's Digital Action Plan
- acts as a technical clearing house, publicising the work of members and providing a user-group to implementers around the world.
- fulfils marketing and regulatory roles on behalf of its members and the industry.
- is actively working to enhance broadcasting with interactivity and internet technology.
- is an active member of the DVB Project and is a founder member of DigiTAG.
- exhibits at major international trade fairs.
- advises on DTT implementation world-wide.