



PRESS RELEASE

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DTG to develop a Digital Video Sender

The Digital TV Group has begun work to develop a 'digital video sender', a system of wireless delivery of digital TV signals to 2nd and 3rd TVs in homes. The project, which has financial assistance from the Department of Trade & Industry, will allow confirmation of the feasibility of a simple and pragmatic new system which is being specified by the Wireless Home Networks group within the DTG.

A DVB-T signal is broadcast from a simple gateway located near the main TV using spectrum in the 5.8GHz Short Range Devices band and received using a digital terrestrial TV receiver. The main additions are an up-and down-converter and a control channel to select the desired signal source. The system is effectively an enhanced digital version of the current analogue video senders, and is capable of carrying a complete digital terrestrial TV multiplex or its equivalent.

This approach is much simpler than the wireless LAN systems that are being developed and uses existing mass-market devices. It will therefore be cheaper to implement in the near term. It operates in a different frequency band than the wireless LAN systems, enabling more users to have wireless systems and will also be more suited to carriage of digital TV services.

The DTI funding is to be used to confirm that an acceptable performance can be achieved in most typical homes and that the system can be implemented at an acceptable price. The DTG will manage and lead the project which will include theoretical studies by Zetacast and the University of Manchester, bench tests with prototype up- and down-converters, and field tests in a range of typical homes by Martin Turner Direct. The results will be made available to industry to help with system development.

Wider industry involvement is encouraged and any interested parties should contact the DTG via office@dtg.org.uk.

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NOTES FOR EDITORS

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.
- has established a wholly-owned subsidiary, DTG Testing Ltd., to provide interoperability testing services to the industry.
- 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.
- is a founder member of DigiTAG.
- exhibits at major international trade fairs.
- advises on DTT implementation world-wide.