



News Update

while Vinatech is part-owned by CTV Pty Ltd. STV and CTV are part-owned by Australis Media Ltd, who will deliver programming to STV and CTV under a franchise agreement.

Star Vision, a subsidiary of Australis Media Ltd, has indicated it intends to deliver its services Australia-wide via MDS. The prohibition on licensing a pay TV broadcasting service using MDS as a means of delivery ceased to have effect on 31 December 1994.

Star Vision has previously been allocated 30 licences for non-satellite pay TV broadcasting services. The proposed means of delivery for these services was cable.

Interactive has indicated it intends to deliver its services Australia-wide via cable.

The majority of the licences allocated to Interactive are for the provision of near-video-on-demand services. These are movie based services which utilise a large number of channels as they offer the same movies at different times, giving subscribers a choice about viewing time.

The licences are allocated on the basis of one licence per proposed service. The ABA takes a service to be a single stream of programming.

The ABA has now issued a total of 769 licences for non-satellite pay TV broadcasting services.

<i>Licence holder</i>	<i>No. of licences</i>
Access Cable Television Ltd	110
Access Cable TV (Northern Rivers) Pty Ltd	4
Cable Television Services Pty Ltd	20
Central Coast Cablevision Pty Ltd	10
Dergat Pty Ltd	4
Explorer Channel Pty Ltd	1
Home Show Cable Australia Pty Ltd	20
Interactive Telecommunications Network Ltd	150
Multicom Australia Pty Ltd	35
NRS Group Pty Ltd	13
Oberon Broadcasters Pty Ltd	10
Pacific Media Telecommunications Pty Ltd	18
Paynet Telecommunications Pty Ltd	8
Premier Cable Australia Pty Ltd	43
Prime Media Developments Pty Ltd	45
Private Cable Network Pty Ltd	34
Rowcom Holdings Pty Ltd	28
Selectra Pty Ltd	50
Star Vision Pty Ltd	50
Vinatech Pty Ltd	50
Visitor Publishing Group Pty Ltd	2
Wright Weller Rosenblum Pty Ltd	10

Australian content consultation

As part of the review of the program standard for Australian content on television, the ABA held meetings with industry representatives in Sydney and Melbourne in mid December 1994.

The meetings gave the Chairman, Mr Brian Johns, and ABA Member, Mr Tim O'Keefe, the opportunity to hear the views of the broadcasting industry, production industry, public interest groups and the craft unions.

Debate focused on the proposals outlined in the ABA's Working Paper (released in November 1994), in particular on the issues of the amount of Australian drama programs and the way Australian drama should be measured.

The ABA has invited written submissions on the Working Paper proposals from those unable to attend either of the meetings. A total of 27 submissions have been received. These are currently under consideration, along with the transcripts of the Sydney and Melbourne meetings.

The ABA has commenced work with the Office of Legislative Drafting to draft a revised Australian content standard. Once the draft is finalised, the ABA will seek further public comment on the proposed variations to the standard.

Present at the meeting in Sydney were representatives from Grundys, the Australian Screen Directors' Association, Screen Producers Association of Australia (SPAA), Media Entertainment and Arts Alliance, Film Finance Corporation, Australian Film Commission, Presbyterian Women's Association and the Federation of Australian Commercial Television Stations. Bruce Gyngell from the Nine Network and producers including Sandra Levy of Southern Star and David Field of Village Roadshow also attended.

At the meeting in Melbourne were representatives from the Media Entertainment and Arts Alliance, Artists Services, Australian Children's Television Foundation, Australian Children's Television Action Committee, FACTS, SPAA and independent producers.

The ABA would like to express its appreciation to the Australian Film Commission for the use of their facilities in both Sydney and Melbourne.

Singapore visit

SINGAPORE: In an address to the Pan Asian Telecommunications Summit in December, Mr Brian Johns stressed the need to ensure that