

International broadcast & media briefs

A new monthly summary of web-based news

February 2003

Asia

India Government mulls opening Ku band for broadcast

The Indian government is considering using previously banned Ku-band as an uplink for television broadcasting.

More: ... www.satnewsasia.com/frames.html

Murdoch expands tiny footprint in China

Rupert Murdoch's News Corporation has widened its presence in China by forging a strategic partnership with Hunan Broadcasting Group. More: ... www.satnewsasia.com/frames.html

Singapore sets up body to oversee media industry

Singapore has organised the Media Development Authority to oversee its media industry effective 1 January.

More... www.satnewsasia.com

Europe

Manufacturers set to take up easy TV challenge

New research published by Easy TV partners, the Independent Television Commission and Consumers' Association, challenges manufacturers to improve the usability of digital television.

More: ... www.itc.org.uk/latest_news/press_releases/

BBC defends digital ratings as MP criticise 'bribery'

The BBC has defended its digital television channels in the face of low viewing figures and criticism about the lack of choice for technologically deprived viewers. Source: broadcastnow.co.uk

Parliament to study media intrusion

An inquiry into media intrusion is to be conducted by the Commons Select Committee on Media, Culture and Sport.

More: ... www.parliament.uk/parliamentary_committees/

Brussels to probe pay TV film ties

Satellite broadcaster BSkyB confirmed it was co-operating fully with European Commission investigations into the way major movie studios distribute films rights to television broadcasters.

Source: broadcastnow.co.uk

No further BBC role for Ofcom

The government has effectively drawn a line under calls for the BBC to come under the full control of Ofcom.

Source: broadcastnow.co.uk

Ofcom director calls for greater powers

David Edmonds, one of Ofcom's most senior directors, has called for increased powers for the super-regulator to police public service broadcasting. Source: broadcastnow.co.uk

Jowell backs indies

Media secretary Tessa Jowell has handed indies a significant boost by accepting all but two of the recommendations made by the ITC in its program supply review. Source: broadcastnow.co.uk

Spain's new telecom law to allow spectrum trading

Proposed legislation will allow Spain's telecommunications operators to trade radio spectrum. Source: www.totaltele.com

European Regulators' Group prepares for new role

Newly-established EU regulatory body invites comments on its 2003 work program. Source: www.totaltele.com

Deadline passes for European digital copyright law

A deadline for adopting a new EU law on copyright protection has passed with just two member countries (Greece and Denmark) signing up. Source: www.totaltele.com

New mission revitalizes Dutch international broadcaster

Radio Netherlands has announced major revisions to its global mission. Source: www.ebu.ch/news/press_archive/

New Zealand

NZ government loses domain fight

The NZ Crown has lost a cyber-squatting dispute over the domain name Newzealand.com, despite claiming ownership on behalf of the New Zealand government. Source: www.totaltele.com

US

TV owners urge duopoly leniency

Four TV station groups are urging the Federal Communications Commission to set new local-ownership limits that would make it easier to establish duopolies in small and midsized markets.

More: ... www.broadcastingcable.com

Cable sub total appears on decline in 2002

For the first time in industry history, cable subscribership may show an annual decline — for calendar-year 2002. More: www.fcc.gov/

Terrestrial auction on hold

With little public explanation, the Federal Communications Commission has postponed its February auction of spectrum designated for a new terrestrial competitor to satellite television until August. More: ... www.broadcastingcable.com

FCC, US military in discussions over WLAN spectrum

The US Department of Defense is pressing for spectrum allocation for wireless LAN services to be constrained on security grounds. What wasn't made clear, however, was that the spectrum in question is the 5Ghz band rather than the 2.4Ghz band currently used for WiFi services. Source: www.totaltele.com

White House: Web security plan won't invade privacy

U.S. government defends sweeping new cybersecurity plans. Efforts to bolster Internet security will not lead to increased government scrutiny of individuals' online habits, according to the White House and industry sources. Source: www.totaltele.com