

International broadcast & media briefs

A monthly summary of web-based news

November 2003

Asia

Piracy costs Asian TV business US\$1.3 billion

The pay TV industry in Asia will lose nearly US\$1.3 billion in potential revenues this year from piracy, with losses set to grow by more than 10 percent a year, according to an industry study.

Source: www.abu.org.my

Korea struggles with digital broadcasting standard

After launching its pilot terrestrial digital television broadcasting services in 2001, South Korea is preparing to launch its digital multimedia broadcasting service next year.

Source www.abu.org.my

Samsung, SCM Team on OpenCable Solution for Korea

SCM Microsystems and Samsung have developed a solution targeted at Korean cable operators looking to offer 'triple-play' (video, voice and data) services over a single cable channel.

Source: itvt.com newsletter, Issue 5.21 Part 2 | October 13, 2003

Europe

Europe's First HDTV Channel to Launch on ASTRA 19.2°E in January '04

SES ASTRA and Belgian TV facilities provider Alfacam have announced their cooperation in bringing Euro1080, Europe's first high-definition television channel, to audiences across Europe via the continent's prime orbital position of 19.2 deg. east starting January 2004.

Source: www.satnews.com/frames.html

Diffusion online

Public service broadcasting in Sweden takes up the digital challenge.

More: www.ebu.ch

Nokia launches TV, clamshell handsets

Nokia has launched five new handsets including its first 'media category' model as well as models targeted directly at the business user. The Finnish vendor also said it expects to ship around 100 million handsets that have colour displays, Java and MMS in 2004.

Source: totaltele.com

Media revenues to grow by 3.4%

European entertainment spending is expected to reach 243 billion euros by 2007, according to new research from *PricewaterhouseCoopers. Entertainment and Media Outlook: 2003-2007.*

Source: *Broadband TV News*, www.broadbandtvnews.com/

Freeview set to reach 2.5m homes

Freeview is set to reach 2.5m homes by the start of 2003 as the DTT service reaches its first birthday. Around 2 million homes now have the DTT service with sales currently standing at around 50 000 boxes a week in the run-up to Christmas.

Source: broadcastnow.co.uk

Law supports broadcasters against pirates

Broadcasters will be able to hit back against pirates who copy and sell their programs thanks to new legislation. The law will for the first time make it a criminal offence to communicate copyright works to the public without the owner's authority, with a penalty of up to two years imprisonment or a fine.

Source: broadcastnow.co.uk

EU group seeks comments over spectrum trading:

The European Union's Radio Spectrum Policy Group (RSPG) has asked for comments from the telecommunications industry over its planned work program for the next four years.

More: rspg.groups.eu.int/activities/work_programme/index_en.htm

ABU resolves to promote digital terrestrial broadcasting

The Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union has resolved to work with the European Broadcasting Union to promote digital terrestrial broadcasting and to exchange digital content.

More: www.ebu.ch

Radio: first live 5.1 multichannel transmission

The European Broadcasting Union, Prix-Europa, Swedish Radio, Berlin and Brandenburg Radio and T-Systems arranged a 5.1 Multichannel Audio transmission of a live 'Musique à Neuf' concert from Berlin on 11 October 2003. The transmission was entirely successful.

Source: www.ebu.ch

ITC releases report of viewers' reactions to media coverage of the Iraq war

Audiences for news programs on television received a massive boost during the Iraq War, according to *Conflict Around the Clock*, new research by the Independent Television Commission.

Television was the main source of international news for 67 per cent of people, compared with 16 per cent for newspapers, 13 per cent for radio and 1 per cent the Internet.

More: www.itc.org.uk

Abramsky: radio must go digital

The BBC's director of radio and music, Jenny Abramsky, has warned that the future of radio is at stake unless it goes digital, even if it means a drop in audience share for the BBC.

Source: broadcastnow.co.uk

Emap radio to offer 'red button' interactivity

Media giant Emap is poised to become the first radio company to offer 'red button' interactivity on its digital radio services. Listeners will be able to use their remote controls to access multiple pages of information and promotions on stations across its six digital.

Source: broadcastnow.co.uk

Less regulation and fewer targets are key to successful delivery

Britain's new breed of super regulators should concentrate on a few high level duties as possible, concentrating on a clear focus and fewer targets, according to Patricia Hodgson, Chief Executive of the Independent Television Commission. Wide-ranging duties risk drawing super-regulators into decisions that should be taken by Government and confusion follows about who is responsible for what.

More: www.itc.org.uk

ITV hiked indie hours in 2002, ITC reveals

The amount of program hours supplied to ITV by independent producers in 2002 has risen by 16 per cent year on year, according to figures released by the Independent Television Commission as part of its annual report into Channel 3's network arrangements.

Source: broadcastnow.co.uk

Hauppauge launches receiver for free-to-air satellite

London-based Hauppauge Digital, which specialises in developing DTV products for PCs, has launched a satellite television decoder for the UK market.

Source: itvt.com newsletter, Issue 5.21 Part 2 | October 13, 2003

Humax hoping to capture slice of UK DTT market with new set-top boxes

Korean set-top box manufacturer, Humax, is hoping to make inroads into the UK digital terrestrial market with a new line of products including five digital terrestrial set-top boxes, designed to take advantage of the increasing popularity of the UK's free-to-air DTT platform, Freeview.

Source: itvt.com newsletter, Issue 5.21 Part 2 | October 13, 2003

UK officials call for cross-border anti-spam fight: US urged to cooperate with UK in battle against spam email

British officials on Tuesday urged their US counterparts to cooperate in their fight against 'spam' email, downplaying differences between the two countries' legal approaches to unwanted commercial marketing.

Source: Totaltele.com

New Zealand

Music videos pass the 1000 mark

NZ On Air is celebrating a major NZ music achievement in announcing that the number of music videos it has supported has now passed 1000, and spending more than half a million dollars on the production of music videos in the 2002-03 financial year.

More: www.nzonair.govt.nz

TVNZ signs ABU Olympics deal

The Asia-Pacific Broadcast Union has chosen TVNZ to provide coverage for its members of the 2004 Summer Olympic Games in

Athens. In an agreement signed in Istanbul, a range of television production and distribution services are included and will be made available to ABU members across Asia.

Source: www.abu.org.my

US

Court upholds key component of Powell digital transition plan

The US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit denied a petition for review of the Federal Communication Commission's tuner order in a 20-page ruling.

Source: www.fcc.gov

US Senate passes anti-spam measure

The US Senate has voted to outlaw deceptive 'spam' email, and set up a 'do-not-spam' registry for those who do not want to receive unsolicited commercial email.

Source: totaltele.com

NAACP Releases TV-Diversity Report

Minority actors on the 'Big Three' broadcast networks increased 19 per cent, from 214 in the 2001-02 season to 254 in 2002-03, according to a new survey from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Source: broadcastingcable.com

FCC adopts third generation (3G) rules

In a Report and Order, the Federal Communications Commission advanced its efforts to provide new and existing wireless operators with additional spectrum resources and issued rules that will enable wireless providers to offer an array of innovative products and services, including wireless broadband Internet access.

More: www.fcc.gov

Watchdog: TV stations shun local public affairs

Local public affairs ranked 'dead last' among 14 categories of programming aired by television stations according to an Alliance for Better Campaigns study.

Source: broadcastingcable.com

New CEA figures show strong DTV equipment sales

The US Consumer Electronics Association has issued encouraging new figures detailing the uptake of digital television in the US.

Source: itvt.com newsletter, Issue 5.21 Part 1 | October 13, 2003

News Corp. provides information on plans for DirecTV

In a filing with the Federal Communications Commission, News Corp. provided some information on its plans for DirecTV, should its planned acquisition of the satellite television provider receive regulatory approval: by the end of next year, it plans to offer ITV gaming, banking, news and sports services on DirecTV, similar to those available on the News Corp.-owned Sky platform in the UK.

Source: itvt.com newsletter, Issue 5.21 Part 1 | October 13, 2003

FCC puts DTV stragglers in penalty box

The Federal Communications Commission has admonished seven stations for failing to get digital signals up and running and for insufficiently justifying those failures.

Source: broadcastingcable.com

