

International broadcast & media briefs

A monthly summary of web-based news

April 2003

Europe

Communications Bill

On 5 March 2003, the Communications Bill was brought from the House of Commons to the House of Lords. A copy of the latest version of the Bill is located at www.communicationsbill.gov.uk.

C4 may launch new free digital TV show

Channel 4 is considering launching a new free-to-air digital television channel aimed at older viewers.

Source: www.broadcastnow.co.uk

More than 40% of UK households now have digital TV

Digital television penetration in the UK is estimated to have increased to 41.4% of households at the end of 2002. Digital TV take-up is on target to exceed internet penetration in the UK later this year.

More... www.itc.org.uk

Sky explores launch of new reality channel

BSkyB is considering launching a new dedicated channel for reality TV. The channel would initially feature archive Sky One shows.

Source: broadcastnow.co.uk

American Investor Likely to Get Kirch Media

U.S. billionaire Haim Saban is poised to control Germany's No. 2 private broadcaster, making him the first foreigner to take a sizeable chunk of the German television market.

Source: www.satnews.com/frames.html

New Zealand

Children's drama on a roll

NZ On Air's commitment to locally produced children's drama is paying off for television viewers, as three live action series go into production.

More... www.nzonair.govt.nz/pag.cfm?i=666

US

Teens' digital time tops TV

Teenagers now spend more time with digital media than they do watching TV, according to a study from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

Source: www.broadcastingcable.com

FCC initiates proceedings to facilitate wireless broadband access in the 2500-2690 MHz bands

The Federal Communications Commission opened a proceeding designed to facilitate the provision of fixed and mobile broadband access, educational and other advanced wireless services.

More... www.fcc.gov

Poll: Reality shows losing steam

According to a poll, sheep entrails and cockroaches are starting to leave a bad taste in some viewers' mouths. Asked if they were tiring of the reality genre, 67 percent of respondents said yes.

Source: broadcastingcable.com

Judges examine public stations' digital ads

Federal judges will rule within several months on whether public TV stations may carry advertising on their digital spectrum.

Source: broadcastingcable.com

Public broadcasters: Reality isn't pretty

Pitching themselves as the alternative to reality television, public broadcasters formally began a fight to preserve federal funding.

Source: broadcastingcable.com

New Day Has Dawned For DTV Sets

With the FCC mandating that DTV tuners be integrated into all TV sets larger than 13-inches by mid 2007, the US DTV market will see explosive growth.

Source: www.broadcastingcable.com



Complaint handling by commercial radio stations

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The Commercial Radio Codes of Practice require each commercial radio broadcaster to provide Commercial Radio Australia (CRA)* with an extract of the record of complaints received. CRA provides a consolidated report to the ABA.

July - September 2002

Member stations recorded 63 written complaints alleging breaches of the Commercial Radio Codes of Practice during the third quarter of 2002.

	Talkback & discussion	News & current affairs	Music programs	Advertising	Miscellaneous	Total
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Offensive matters in	17	1	4	5	8	35
Prohibited matter in	10			1		11
Other complaints	2		4	1	10	17
Total	29	1	8	7	18	63

Source: *Commercial Radio Codes of Practice: Complaints summary September quarter 2002*
* Previously Federation of Australian Radio Broadcasters (FARB)

