

International broadcast & media briefs

A monthly summary of web-based news

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Europe

European regulatory group puts spotlight on bitstream

The European Regulators Group (ERG) is to examine whether European Union national telecom regulators should adopt common rules on bitstream access, given its importance in the rollout of broadband services. Source: www.totaltele.com

Regulators need new approach to broadband - report

Regulators in Europe and the U.S. are in danger of hampering broadband rollout by taking a competition-based approach to its regulation, a new report warns. Source: www.totaltele.com

Lords rally to block 'Murdoch clause'

The government looks set to be defeated in the House of Lords over its cross-media ownership plans, which would allow Rupert Murdoch to buy Five, after two influential peers agreed to oppose the proposal. Source: www.broadcastnow.co.uk

4m in Europe sign up for al-Jazeera

Subscriptions to the Arabic-language television network al-Jazeera have doubled since the war on Iraq began last week, signalling a significant demand for alternative to western media coverage. Source: broadcastnow.co.uk

New growth for UK digital

Take-up of digital television in the UK may overtake the Internet. According to the Independent Television Commission 41.4 per cent of households in the UK now have digital television installed. Source: [Broadband TV News btn@topica.email-publisher.com](mailto:BroadbandTVNews@topica.email-publisher.com)

OpenTV Jives with multiplayer games

OpenTV is to enable multiplayer games using its interactive middleware. The UK will be the first with this functionality available. Households will be able to play against one another. Source: [Broadband TV News btn@topica.email-publisher.com](mailto:BroadbandTVNews@topica.email-publisher.com)

US

Study: TV viewers exhibit combat fatigue

Television viewers are showing their first signs of war fatigue. The conflict is the first war covered full time by three cable news networks in the US. More... www.broadcastingcable.com

New Internet body chief promises global focus

The group that oversees the Internet's traffic system picked Australian Paul Twomey as its new president, marking the first time a non-U.S. resident will head the global body. Twomey said he would try to reach out to developing countries over the next three years as he heads the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers, or ICANN. Source: www.totaltele.com

Find out what's happening at NAB 2003

Live from NAB - www.uemedia.com/LivefromNAB

Abernathy is minding the kids

Federal Communications Commission member Kathleen Abernathy is teaming up with the Consumer and Government Affairs Bureau to create a "Parents Page" on the FCC Web site (www.fcc.gov) to help educate parents about children's television. Source: www.broadcastingcable.com

Liberty Backs Likely Murdoch Bid For DirecTV

John Malone has decided to team with Rupert Murdoch in his pursuit of DirecTV. Malone's Liberty Media said it will invest another \$500 million in Murdoch's News Corp, which will increase Liberty's interest in the Australian media conglomerate from 18% to 20%. Source: www.broadcastingcable.com

Advancing Interactive TV: What's the Question?

When it comes to enhanced TV, the question isn't how to impress viewers. The real question is why people turn on their television to begin with. More... www.nds.com/worldvision/sixteen/wv16_article3.html

Canada

Combating program signal theft: CRTC welcomes industry measures and involvement of govt. agencies

Theft or "piracy" of broadcast signals can take a number of forms, from individuals tampering with locked service boxes to make unauthorised cable television service connections, to highly organised groups selling access codes and equipment that enable their customers to illegally decode encrypted satellite signals. More.. <http://www.crtc.gc.ca>

Interactive TV

Two Way TV upgrades the Ark

Two Way TV has unveiled an upgraded version of its Ark interactive technology. Ark provides interactive TV tools that drive applications for both Liberate and Open TV enabled boxes. Enhancements include built-in security to safeguard access to interactive content. Source: [Broadband TV news \[btn@topica.email-publisher.com\]](mailto:BroadbandTVNews@topica.email-publisher.com)

Iraq War Means Increased Usage for BBC News 24's Interactive TV App

The BBC has seen a 3-fold increase in traffic for the BBC News 24 interactive TV news application, and has dedicated 3 of the 6 video streams they call "mini channels" to the war in Iraq. Since the war began, over 5 million people are watching BBC News 24 each day, and 330,000 are accessing the app. Source : www.itvt.com

