

International broadcast & media briefs

A monthly summary of web-based news

April 2004

Asia

Regulations for Indian cable TV likely soon

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India will release a regulatory framework for the cable television industry in the next two to three months, according to the authority's chairman, Pradip Baijal.

Source: www.abu.org.my

New broadcasting satellite launched

A satellite for digital multimedia broadcasting, jointly owned by Korean and Japanese firms and launched from the Kennedy Space Center, is expected to make the two countries the first in the world to provide such services.

Source: www.abu.org.my

Europe

Multimedia meets radio

The first pitching session on multimedia and radio synergies, organized by the EBU Radio and Technical Departments opened, on 16 March 2004 to a full-house with debates and demonstrations. Seventy-eight participants from 24 member organisations are taking part.

Source: www.ebu.ch

Technology

ENCO aims to help hearing impaired with enCaption, which describes the system real-time, automated, speaker-independent speech recognition-based closed captioning designed for live television news.

More: www.encaption.com

Source: www.rwonline.com/dailynews/one.php?id=4872

Microsoft beams video to mobiles

Software giant Microsoft has announced the launch of a wireless video delivery system for mobile devices, in partnership with a pair of digital media content and applications makers.

More: www.zdnet.co.uk/zdnetuk/news/communications/wireless/0,39020348,39148307,00.htm

UK

Government call for end to 'media scums'

Broadcasters have been told by the government that they should call a halt to media scums outside the homes of ordinary people.

Source: www.broadcastnow.co.uk

Ofcom appoints Advisory Committee for England

Ofcom has announced the appointment of nine members to its Advisory Committee for England, established to provide advice to Ofcom about the interests and opinions of people living in England on communications matters.

More: www.ofcom.org.uk/media_office/latest_news/nr_20040319

Thompson rules out C4 privatisation

Channel 4 chief executive Mark Thompson has categorically ruled-out privatisation, but has supported transferring the broadcaster to trust status.

More: www.broadcastnow.co.uk

NAO to review Freeview spend

There is to be a Government probe into the financing of Freeview – the UK's free-to-view digital terrestrial service.

More: www.dtg.org.uk/news/uknews/freeview_audit.htm

Who knows what digital TV is?

According to a survey by Sony, 51 per cent of UK households do not know the difference between analog and digital television, and 48 per cent do not know what it takes to receive Freeview.

More: www.digitalspy.co.uk/article/ds13905.html

Labour MPs call for halt to ITV regional cuts

The Government and Ofcom are under growing pressure from Labour MPs to halt what they fear is a growing trend to concentrate production jobs in London.

Source: www.broadcastnow.co.uk

BBC loses £205m in lost licence fees

The government has admitted that two million people now evade paying the television licence fee: £205m is lost to the BBC and broadcasting every year.

Source: www.broadcastnow.co.uk

Broadband aggregation bidders

The Government has named 17 companies that will be able to bid for public sector contracts for broadband in the latest stage in the Government's broadband aggregation project to pool £1bn of public sector spending on high-speed Internet services.

More: www.theregister.co.uk/content/22/36288.html

US

Powell proposes analog takeback

Hundreds of television stations would be forced to give up their analog channels years sooner than expected under a plan by Federal Communications Commission chairman Michael Powell.

Source: www.broadcastingcable.com

Study finds trouble in news

Declining news audiences have led to newsroom cutbacks and other 'financial fixes,' reinforcing the public's suspicion that news organisations are motivated more by economics than public service, according to a study of the state of newsgathering.

More: www.broadcastingcable.com

The state of the news media 2004: an annual report on American journalism

A comprehensive examination of eight major sectors of American journalism. More: www.journalism.org/

