

International broadcast & media briefs

A monthly summary of web-based news

Asia

Asian broadcasters meet to review tsunami coverage

Asian broadcasters are meeting in Tokyo to review their coverage of the tsunami and discuss their role in the event of future disasters. The three-day workshop on Natural Disasters and the Broadcaster's Role is being staged by Japan's public broadcaster, NHK, and the ABU.

More: www.abu.org.my

Indian regulator supports private terrestrial TV

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India has made a strong case for allowing private participation in terrestrial television broadcasting – which has so far been reserved for public broadcaster Prasar Bharati.

More: www.abu.org.my

Canada

Survey: 4m Canadians interested in satellite radio?

Nearly one-fifth of Canadians, or up to 4 million people, would express an interest in subscribing to a Canadian satellite radio service within the next year if it were to become available, according to survey results from Canadian research firm Decima, which polled 2,000 people on behalf of Canada's two satellite radio applicants, Canadian Satellite Radio and Sirius Radio Canada.

More: www.rwonline.com/dailynews/one.php?id=6821

Europe

Satellite leads digital TV platform in Europe

Digital television has gained a new lease of life in Europe during the past year with 26 per cent of Europe's television households acquiring digital television by the end of 2004 (21 per cent a year earlier) according to the latest research from Strategy Analytics. The keys to this success were new services such as DDTV (Digital terrestrial television) and IPTV (Internet protocol television). The report, Digital TV in Western Europe: Market Outlook & Analysis, is based on the results of a survey of more than 70 digital television operators across 16 European countries.

More: *Satnews Weekly*, 3 March 2005 www.satnews.com/frames.html

DW launches TV news in Arabic

Deutsche Welle has become the first European television broadcaster to present news in the Arabic language, launching the service in Kuwait.

More: www.abu.org.my

BBC brings forward HDTV

The growing apparent enthusiasm for HDTV across Europe, and in the UK in particular, has meant the BBC has looked urgently again at its HDTV timetable.

Source: *Broadband TV News*, 28 February 2005

Digi radio sales overtake traditional sets

Sales of digital radio in the UK have overtaken those of traditional sets for the first time: in January, electrical goods chain Dixons saw digital sets outstrip sales of analog radios by two to one. Demand is expected to rise by more than 50 per cent over the next year.

Source: www.broadcastnow.co.uk

Virgin Radio goes 3G

Virgin Radio said users with mobile phones capable of accessing high-speed third-generation or 2.5-generation networks will be able to receive Virgin Radio, Virgin Radio Classic Rock and Virgin Radio Groove after downloading free software from the station's website (www.virginradio.co.uk).

Source: www.rwonline.com/dailynews/one.php?id=6811

BBC governors set to be scrapped

The BBC's governors are set to be replaced after 78 years with two new bodies, the government has proposed in a Green Paper. The governors would be replaced by a BBC Trust and an executive board.

The full text of the Green Paper is available from: news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/entertainment/tv_and_radio/4309325.stm

Kids channels hit back over child obesity

Turner Broadcasting's UK chief Richard Kilgarriff has challenged the government to put its money where its mouth is on childhood obesity – and invest in health education campaigns on children's television.

More from Broadcast's Kids' TV Forum www.broadcastnow.co.uk

ITV to slash kids and religion hours

ITV has been given the green light by Ofcom to slash its kids and religious output. From this year ITV will reduce its CiTV content from 11.5 hours a week to 8.

Source: www.broadcastnow.co.uk

Mexico

DRM tests begin in Mexico

The Mexican government is due to select a digital radio technology this year and has authorised testing to begin for Digital Radio Mondiale for the AM band. The public radio network is carrying out the testing. Mexico is considering both IBOC and Eureka-147 for its FM digital technology.

More: www.rwonline.com/dailynews/one.php?id=6767

US

Stevens vows cable-indecency crackdown

The chairman of the Senate Commerce Committee has promised a showdown with the cable industry, vowing to bring it under the same indecency restrictions as broadcasters.

More: www.broadcastingcable.com