



# **INDEPENDENT COMMUNICATIONS AUTHORITY OF SOUTH AFRICA**

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## **DIGITAL MIGRATION REGULATIONS**

**December 2012**



# ICASA's Strategic Objectives

- Three of ICASA's Strategic Objectives can be summarised as:
  - Universal Service
  - Consumer Choice
  - Fair prices



# DTT >> Universal Service

- How does the DTT migration achieve these objectives?
- Universal Service – **Broadcasting**
  - Currently, ~85% of population receive a FTA analogue terrestrial TV signal
  - After migration, ~85% of the population will receive a digital terrestrial TV signal.
  - ALL THE REST will receive a digital satellite TV signal.
  - For the first time ever, 100% coverage will be possible.



# DTT >> Universal Service 2

- How does the DTT migration achieve these objectives?
- Universal Service – **Telecommunications**
  - The 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> **Digital Dividend** represent spectrum ideally suited to providing telecommunications services – including **broadband** – in rural areas
  - Many of these areas are not currently covered, partially because it's too expensive at higher frequencies.



# DTT >> Consumer Choice

- How does the DTT migration achieve these objectives?
- Consumer Choice - **Broadcasting**
  - Moving from fewer than 15 terrestrial channels to up to 140 terrestrial channels offers much more choice to the consumer
  - Existing broadcasters will be able to broadcast more channels
  - There will be sufficient spectrum for more new broadcasters to attempt to win market share
  - More community broadcasters can be accommodated



# DTT >> Consumer Choice

- How does the DTT migration achieve these objectives?
- Consumer Choice - **Telecommunications**
  - The Digital Dividends, plus the other higher frequency spectrum available, is sufficient for:
    - 3 x New Entrants
    - 1 x Wholesale Open Access Network
    - 4 x Incumbents
  - To all offer new, faster services with greater coverage than before
  - Consumers will therefore have more and better choices about their service providers.



# DTT >> Fair Prices



- How does the DTT migration achieve these objectives?
- Fair Prices – **Broadcasting & Telecommunications**
  - The increased competition and increased choice outlined above will drive down prices for the consumer.
  - She will be free to choose a higher priced, higher quality service, or a lower priced service, as suits her needs.
  - Applies to both TV and broadband
  - TV over Broadband will become a practical alternative to broadcast TV



# MINISTERIAL POLICY



- Although the digital migration process focuses on incumbent broadcasters, especially the free to air services, government continues to be committed to increasing diversity of ownership and content of the broadcasting sector and facilitating the development of a dynamic, competitive environment.
- In this regard, ICASA, shall, taking into account its powers and mandate as set out in relevant legislation explore how to best introduce new services and licensees to facilitate such diversity.





# MINISTERIAL POLICY



- The increased capacity and spectrum availability given the availability of DTT provides an opportunity for the licensing of new pay television service providers in the short term, and new free to air services in the medium to long term. Competition is needed to achieve a range of national policy imperatives including consumer choice, economic empowerment, promote domestic and foreign investments.



# DIGITAL MIGRATION REGULATIONS

- Regulate the digital migration of the existing television channels
- Prescribe the conditions for the assignment of channel capacity in Multiplex 1 and Multiplex 2
- Procedure for the authorisation of digital incentive channels



# FRAMEWORK FOR MIGRATION

- Dual illumination period and final switch-off date to be published by Minister
- DVB-T2 and MPEG-4 standards
- Community broadcasting services not required to dual illuminate but must ensure that they complete digital migration by the end of the dual illumination period



# MULTIPLEX 1 ALLOCATION



## MULTIPLEX 1 – EXISTING PUBLIC AND COMMUNITY TELEVISION SERVICES

- SABC 85% Capacity
- Community TV 15%
- Digital incentive channels – authorisation
- Public Value Assessment – section 10 of Broadcasting Act



# MULTIPLEX 2 ALLOCATION

## MULTIPLEX 2 – EXISTING COMMERCIAL FREE-TO-AIR TELEVISION SERVICES AND SUBSCRIPTION BROADCASTING SERVICES

- e.tv 50% Capacity
- M-Net 40%
- 10% currently utilised by existing temporary licensees shall be shared in equal proportion between e.tv and M-Net upon expiry (Finally = e.tv 55% and M-Net 45%)
- Digital incentive channels – authorisation



# CHANNEL AUTHORISATION



- Application may be submitted prior to the commencement of the dual illumination period or during the dual illumination period
- Authority may invite public comments and conduct a public hearing where necessary
- Within 60 days of receipt of an application the Authority shall issue a certificate authorising or refusing to authorise
- The Authority shall give written reasons in respect of its refusal within thirty (30) days of the issuing the refusal certificate



# ADVISORY GROUPS



## Joint Spectrum Advisory Group

- **Comprise:**
- Broadcasting and ECNS licensees
- Officials of ICASA
- Advise ICASA to minimise interference
- Cease after 6 months following switch-off date

## Digital Television Content Advisory Group

- **Comprise:**
- Broadcasting licensees; Independent Producers; consumer protection & Civil society Organisations
- Officials of ICASA
- Advise ICASA on the most effective way to ensure the supply of digital television content
- Cease after 6 months following switch-off date



# PROMOTION OF DIVERSITY & COMPETITION ON DTT

- ICASA is publishing draft Promotion of Diversity & Competition on DTT regulations for public comment
- Draft regulations propose using mobile DTT multiplex 2 as a third DTT multiplex for promoting diversity and competition on the DTT platform
- Multiplex 3 will be shared between new subscription TV, free-to-air commercial TV and community TV services
- ICASA will shortly publish an amendment to the Broadcasting Frequency Plan to convert MDTT2 into DTT3