



DTT Hearings
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Team

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Overview

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Introduction

- TopTV wishes to thank ICASA for the opportunity to submit comments on the draft Digital Terrestrial Television Regulations.
- In light on proposals regarding the deployment of a third MUX, TopTV recognises the opportunity to be a player in this market during the migration period, adding value to the overall DTT offering.
- TopTV intends to apply for space on the third MUX once the regulations have been approved and the ITA issued.
- This presentation will address only key issues related to TopTV as well as seeking clarity on certain issues not addressed in detail in the draft regulations.



Allocation of Muxes

- MUX 1
 - 90% to SABC and 10% for Community B/casters
- MUX 2
 - 50% to e-tv
 - 40% to M-Net and balance for additional services
 - 10% for future use?
- MUX 3
 - 90% for new entrants based on an ITA to be issued after regulations have been approved. FTA as well as Pay TV services.
 - 10% for commercial sound broadcasting



Comments on Mux allocations

- It is not clear from the draft Regulations what the 10% of Mux 2 will be used for. It only states that it will be available for future use and it is critical to know exactly what will be allocated to this portion of the second Mux.
- Creation of Mux 3 is welcome. We've noted that 10% of Mux 3 is reserved for Commercial Sound Broadcasting. It follows then, that all other allocations are exclusively for Video? If that's the case, then audio/radio channels shouldn't be included in Mux 3, especially during the dual illumination period in view of the limited amount of spectrum available. This should be left for implementation after the migration period.



Signal Distribution

- TopTV is still a new operator and although we have an ECNS licence, it will just not be financially viable to roll out a TopTV network and we will most likely approach Sentech for signal distribution.
- Obviously there will have to be a significant amount of technical planning, especially if Conditional Access is to be implemented. That is critical for Pay TV services.
- On a related note, it is imperative that the Sentech signal distribution rate-card be made available as a matter of urgency.



STB control

- The draft regulations do not mention STB control. As mentioned before, this is a critical feature for Subscription TV. The regulations need to clearly address this matter and in so doing, no broadcaster should be obliged to use any one licensee's CA system. There are a variety of technical solutions in this regard.
- In addition, Sentech will have to provision for simylcrypt functionality . TopTV has a Pay TV Licence and we should not be forced to use another CA system to the one we are currently using.
- If we do decide to change it should be out of choice.



DTH services

- It is also mentioned that a portion of the population that will not be able to receive signals via DTT, will receive the signals via satellite. However, there is no framework established or procedure set out to ensure the attainment of this objective.
- In TopTV 's view, it will be far better for companies such as TopTV who already have the established infrastructure to be considered in reaching this goal. The only remaining question is how the STB Subsidy, once decided, will be applied to DTH STB's which would have been distributed in accordance with this objective.
- Leveraging on established infrastructure will ensure savings in terms of network planning and roll-out, access to devices and technology development costs.



CONTENT

- TopTV is of the view that during dual illumination and taking into account limited spectrum availability, all DTT broadcasts should be in SD, widescreen (16:9) format where possible.
- We support the drive towards increased local content. We are also appreciative of the proposed exemption in light of the expense involved in the production of local content.
- As indicated, we do not believe that radio/music services be accommodated during the dual illumination period, due to a lack of spectrum.
- New players should also form part of the DTCAG in order to ensure that everybody complies with objective to ensure maximum DTT uptake.
- TopTV will also be able to contribute towards the outputs of the JSAG and should form part of this advisory body.



Conclusion

- TopTV supports the amended regulations and will appreciate clarity on the issues raised in our submission and in this presentation.
- Again, we thank ICASA for considering new players in this market. We believe that it will stimulate interest and improve sales in the portion of the market that is not funded.



THANK YOU

