

Swisscom TV to add four new HD channels

Swisscom is to add four new high-definition channels to its IPTV service 'Swisscom TV' on February 1st, joining the three HD channels presently available. German channels ARD and ZDF and Austrian channel Servus TV will be available free of charge as part of the basic package from Swisscom TV. They join the existing high-def channels HD Suisse, BBC HD, Anixe HD and Arte HD.

Telefonica Dialog to launch MVNO operations

Polish alternative operator, Telefonica Dialog has said it will enter the country's mobile market this month. The Diallo service will be marketed to both prepaid and contract residential customers as well as to business subscribers. The company will offer services as a mobile virtual network operator (MVNO) using the network infrastructure of Polkomtel.

Polish cable operator offers mobile services

Polish cable operator, Inea, is understood to have launched commercial mobile offerings on 18 January 2010. Inea is the largest cable operator in the Wielkopolska region of Poland. Over 2010, Inea expects to gain 10,000 new mobile subscriptions, and plans to invest into both the development of a next generation network and WiMAX, to offer mobile broadband access.

Lattelecom intros new channel packages

Latvian incumbent Lattelecom has begun offering seven new thematic channel packages to customers of its IPTV service 'Interactive TV', in addition to the basic one they already receive. The new packages are described as being dedicated to: movies, sport, children, popular entertainment, music, Russian programming and international programmes.

Content firms join FTTH Council Europe

Dutch broadcaster NOS and an online gaming company have joined the Fiber-to-the-home (FTTH) Council Europe in order to learn more about the opportunities superfast broadband will afford Internet content firms. The industry body, which is backed largely by telecoms equipment vendors, said services will be a key topic at its next annual conference, to be held in Lisbon, Portugal on Feb. 24-25.

HTML 5 trialled by online video services

Online video providers YouTube and Vimeo have made their services available in HTML 5. The Internet webpage language allows for video and other rich media applications to be shown in compatible browsers without the need to install third party plug-ins such as Adobe's Flash software.

Regulation

UK regulators eye joint-venture inquiry

The British Office of Fair Trading (OFT) has asked the European Commission if it could investigate the proposed merger between UK operators Orange and T-Mobile. Some quarters have expressed fears that the joint-venture will reduce competition in the mobile market and the new company might have too much of the 1800Mhz spectrum available in the market.

Anti-piracy measures to 'have little impact on broadband bills'

Customers might have to pay an extra £0.24 (US\$0.34) each for their broadband services to cover the costs of enforcing the Digital Economy Bill's copyright measures, the British Phonographic Institute has claimed. Research conducted by the Sweet Consultancy on behalf of the BPI said the costs which would be passed onto the consumer would be 100 times less than had been claimed by some ISPs.

EC approves Telefonica's purchase of HanseNet

The European Commission has approved the purchase of German alternative operator HanseNet by the Telefonica Group, owner of mobile operator O2 Germany. The sale was first approved by HanseNet's previous owner Telecom Italia in November 2009.