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Dear Greg

### **The future of Digital Terrestrial Television**

Due to the significant number of material commercial and regulatory issues with which we are currently dealing, we have not been able to develop a detailed response to Ofcom's consultation on the future of Digital Terrestrial Television. Nevertheless, I outline below certain key issues.

#### **1. New standards**

- 1.1 TUTV is broadly supportive of the proposal to adopt new standards for coding (MPEG-4) and transmission (DVB-T2) on the DTT platform in order to make more efficient use of DTT capacity.
- 1.2 TUTV would, however, caution Ofcom to ensure that there is an orderly introduction of these new standards so as not to disrupt existing DTT services and current DTT viewers. As a consequence, TUTV supports regulatory intervention which seeks the earliest possible introduction of these standards in a manner which avoids such disruption.

1.3 In order to avoid a situation in which consumers purchase reception equipment and shortly thereafter find that it is not capable of receiving new DTT services, TUTV would strongly advocate the linked introduction of MPEG 4 and DVB-T2 on DTT. As a Multiplex cannot operate to the DVB-T and DVB-T2 standards simultaneously, the linked introduction of MPEG 4 with DVB-T2 would preclude the introduction of MPEG4 on Multiplexes that are transmitting services in accordance with the DVB-T standard.

1.4 TUTV also supports the proposal to upgrade Multiplexes 1, B, C and D to 64 QAM.

## **2. Clearing a Multiplex**

2.1 Broadly speaking, TUTV supports the proposal to clear a Multiplex of existing services and introduce MPEG 4 and DVB-T2 simultaneously on that Multiplex.

2.2 TUTV notes, however, the proposal by Ofcom to introduce both SD and HD versions of MPEG 4 and DVB-T2 on that cleared Multiplex. TUTV firmly believes that the introduction of HD services on DTT will have a far greater appeal for current and prospective DTT viewers than the introduction of additional SD services. Accordingly, Ofcom should be seeking to maximise the amount of HD content that is broadcast on the cleared Multiplex following the introduction of MPEG 4 and DVB-T2.

## **3. [Redacted – confidential]**

We would welcome an opportunity to meet with you and your colleagues in order for us to elaborate on these issues.

Yours sincerely

Simon Dore  
Chief Technical Officer