



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Digital 3 and 4 signs with Arqiva for new high power digital terrestrial TV network**

- **New high-power DTT network will deliver ITV and Channel 4 to 98.5% of UK households after switchover**
- **Contract will run until 2034, underpinning Freeview coverage**
- **Deal secures net transmission cost savings for broadcasters progressively from 2009**

Arqiva has been awarded a contract estimated to be worth up to £1 billion by Digital 3 and 4 Ltd to design, build and operate a new high power national digital terrestrial TV network until 2034. The new network will carry ITV and Channel 4's main digital services including ITV1, ITV2, ITV3, ITV4, Channel 4, E4, and More4 and will broadcast to 98.5% of the UK population. Rolling out this new national digital terrestrial TV network to all 1154 UK terrestrial transmitter sites is a crucial part of the Digital Switch Over (DSO) project.

Mike Hughes, Project Director at Digital 3 and 4, said: "We're delighted to have reached agreement with Arqiva on this all-important contract, which will mean that ITV's and C4's terrestrial transmission costs will fall compared to today's levels as we transition to a fully digital network. This is a complex deal and we have total confidence that Arqiva will deliver according to our needs. It forms a crucial part of the DSO project and will ensure that these public-service channels are available to almost everyone in the UK through a roof-top aerial."

Steve Holebrook, managing director of Arqiva's Terrestrial Media Solutions division, added: "We too are delighted to announce the signing of this major contract which will maintain our unbroken record of providing terrestrial transmission services to both ITV and Channel 4 since they began broadcasting. With the award of the BBC contract last year, Arqiva is now responsible for rolling out all of the public-service digital terrestrial TV networks, as well as the network for SDN which was also recently announced, and we're looking forward to playing such a key role in DSO."

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Digital Switch Over is the most ambitious broadcast engineering project ever undertaken in the UK and involves the replacement of 5000 analogue and 500 digital transmitter systems with 4000 new digital transmitter systems at 1154 sites. Arqiva has now signed contracts with Digital 3 and 4, the BBC and SDN to roll-out their high power DTT networks for DSO.

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**About Arqiva**

Arqiva operates at the heart of the broadcast and mobile communications industry and is at the forefront of network solutions and services in an increasingly digital world. The company provides much of the infrastructure behind television, radio and wireless communications in the UK and has a growing presence in Ireland, mainland Europe and the USA.

For broadcasters, media companies and corporate enterprises Arqiva has end-to-end capability ranging from outside broadcasts, satellite newsgathering, studios, playout, satellite distribution and terrestrial transmission, the latter including digital switch over and mobile TV development.

In the communications sector the company supports cellular, wireless broadband, video, voice and data solutions for the mobile phone, public safety, public sector, public space and transport markets.

Arqiva has its headquarters in Hampshire, with other major UK offices in London, Buckinghamshire and Yorkshire. It now has seven international satellite teleports, 60 manned bases, and over 2300 shared radio sites throughout the UK and Ireland including masts, towers and rooftops from under 30 to over 300 metres tall.

The company is owned by a consortium of investors led by Macquarie Communications Infrastructure Group and has five operating divisions: Terrestrial Media Solutions, Satellite Media Solutions, Mobile Media Solutions, Wireless Solutions and Public Safety.

Major customers include ITV, Channel 4, Five, the BBC, BSkyB, Classic FM, the five UK mobile operators, the RNLI and the Metropolitan Police.

[www.arqiva.com](http://www.arqiva.com)

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