



## PRESS STATEMENT

Date: 14 November 2007

### **Arqiva confirms Digital Switch Over is complete in Whitehaven, Cumbria**

Arqiva can today confirm that the second stage of Digital Switch Over in Whitehaven, Cumbria, has been a technical success.

Following removal of the BBC Two analogue signal on 17 October, analogue signals for the remaining channels, BBC One, ITV1 and Channel 4, have now been switched off. All three Public Service Broadcast (PSB) multiplexes\* are now being transmitted via high-power digital TV signals from three relay sites at Whitehaven, Eskdale Green and Gosforth.

The analogue signals were switched off at 02:00 on Wednesday 14 November 2007, and the sequence of switching on the digital signals for Multiplex 2 and Multiplex B at all three sites was completed at 03:27 on Wednesday 14 November 2007.

"We are pleased to confirm that Digital Switch Over in Whitehaven, Cumbria, has been a technical success," said Peter Heslop, DSO Programme Director at Arqiva. "In stage two the analogue signals for BBC One, ITV1 and Channel 4 were switched off, and we replaced them with the remaining two PSB multiplexes carrying these and a number of additional channels."

"Whitehaven has seen the start of the Digital Switch Over process and the engineering team at Arqiva is extremely proud to be involved with what is the largest broadcast engineering project in UK history. We now look to the next stage in the plan and will be working towards Digital Switch Over at Selkirk next November and at all the remaining sites by 2012."

- Ends -

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## **Notes**

\* The channels currently included on the PSB multiplexes are:

- Multiplex 1 - BBC (PSB 1)
  - o BBC One, BBC Two, BBC Three, CBBC, BBC News 24, BBCi
- Multiplex 2 - Digital 3 and 4 (PSB 2)
  - o ITV1, ITV2, ITV3, ITV4, Channel 4, Channel 4+1, E4, More 4, CITV, Teletext
- Multiplex B - BBC (PSB 3)
  - o BBC Four, CBeebies, BBC Parliament, Community Channel, BBC Digital Radio Channels, BBC Interactive

## **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 ten international satellite teleports, over 60 other manned locations, and around 3500 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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