



PRESS RELEASE

Date: 6 November 2008

Arqiva confirms technical success of the first stage of Digital Switch Over in the Border region

Arqiva would like to confirm that the Digital Switch Over process in the Border region has begun successfully and the high-power digital TV signal is now being transmitted from the main Selkirk transmitter and eleven relay sites – Bonchester Bridge, Clovenfords, Eyemouth, Galashiels, Hawick, Innerleithen, Jedburgh, Lauder, Peebles, Stow, and Yetholm.

The BBC 2 analogue signal was switched off at 00:31am on Thursday 6 November 2008 and the digital signal for the PSB1 multiplex, which is owned by the BBC and carries channels including BBC One, BBC Two, BBC Three, CBBC, BBC News and BBCi, was switched on at 02:16am on Thursday 6 November 2008 (except Eyemouth and Innerleithen which came on stream at 10:05 am).

Peter Heslop, DSO Programme Director at Arqiva, said: "We are pleased to confirm that all transmitters in the Selkirk transmitter group have successfully completed the first stage of Digital Switchover."

"This is an ambitious broadcast engineering project which will see 1154 sites switch over during the next four years and Arqiva is extremely proud to be supporting the government and Digital UK in this project. As a result of Digital Switch Over, free digital terrestrial television will be available to almost all of the UK through a roof-top aerial, just as analogue terrestrial television has been for decades."

- Ends -

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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. There are three operating divisions:

Terrestrial Broadcast division provides transmission for all UK terrestrial TV broadcasters, including the new networks being built for the Digital Switch Over. Transmission is also provided for BBC Radio and most commercial radio stations, both analogue and DAB. The company owns and operates two of the six UK digital terrestrial TV multiplexes, enabling major media companies to bring their TV and radio services to Freeview.

Satellite & Media serves the broader needs of TV channel providers, media companies and corporate enterprises. Arqiva has end-to-end capability ranging from outside broadcasts, satellite newsgathering, studios and playout to satellite distribution and international connectivity via ten satellite teleports. Many of these services are offered in the US and Europe via offices and infrastructure in Washington DC, Los Angeles, Paris and Rome.

Wireless Access division provides cellular, wireless broadband, voice and data solutions for the mobile communications, public safety, local government, and commercial markets. Arqiva is the largest independent provider of radio sites in the UK and Ireland. With its own spectrum, the company can provide complete mobile communications networks including backhaul links.

Arqiva has its headquarters near Winchester and other major UK offices in London, Warwick, Buckinghamshire and Yorkshire. The company is owned by a consortium of investors led by Macquarie Communications Infrastructure Group. Major customers include the BBC, ITV, Channel 4, Five, BSkyB, Classic FM, the five UK mobile operators, the RNLI and the Metropolitan Police.

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