



## PRESS RELEASE

Date: 20 November 2008

### **Arqiva confirms technical success of Digital Switch Over in the Scottish Borders**

Arqiva would like to confirm that the Digital Switch Over process at the Selkirk transmitter group in the Scottish Borders has been completed and that high-power digital TV signals are now being transmitted from the main Selkirk transmitter and its eleven relay sites\* at Bonchester Bridge, Clovenfords, Eyemouth, Galashiels, Hawick, Innerleithen, Jedburgh, Lauder, Peebles, Stow and Yetholm.

Following the switch off of the BBC 2 analogue signal on Thursday 6 November 2008, the remaining analogue signals for BBC 1, ITV 1, Channel 4 and Five were switched off at 00:01 on Thursday 20 November 2008. The digital signals for D3&4, SDN, BBC Multiplex B, Arqiva Multiplex A and Arqiva Multiplex B\*\*, were switched on at 01:30 on Thursday 20 November 2008. Full testing of the signals was completed at approximately 03:00, with the final relay sites transmitting digital TV services from 16:30.

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 final stage of Digital Switch Over."

"This is the first of 50 analogue main stations to switch over to all-digital transmission. It represents a major milestone in an ambitious broadcast engineering project which will see over 1100 transmission sites switch over during the next four years. Arqiva is extremely proud to be supporting the government and Digital UK in this project and is continuing with work in the West Country, north-west England and parts of Wales in preparation for the next phases of Digital Switch Over in 2009."

- Ends -

#### **Notes to editors:**

\* The main Selkirk transmitter is one of 81 sites nationally that will continue to carry all six multiplexes, three public-service broadcasting (PSB) and three commercial (COM). The eleven relays in the Selkirk group will carry the three PSB multiplexes only.

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\*\*The designations of the six multiplexes will change at switchover, and the table below compares their Pre-Switch Over and Post-Switch Over names, as well as their PSB and COM status. In addition, several channels will swap multiplexes. NB. Five moves from a COM multiplex to a PSB.

Multiplex Operator	Pre-Switch Over Name	Post-Switch Over Name	PSB or COM
BBC	1	BBC A	PSB
Digital 3 & 4	2	D3&4	PSB
SDN	A*	SDN	COM
BBC	B	BBC B	PSB
Arqiva	C	Arqiva A	COM
Arqiva	D	Arqiva B	COM

Source: Ofcom: Digital Switch Over Transmitter Details (Issued: 24 October 2007)  
<http://www.ofcom.org.uk/tv/ifi/tech/dsodetails/81plan.pdf>

### 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.

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

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