



PRESS RELEASE

Date: 4 November 2009

Winter Hill transmitter group - Arqiva confirms first stage of Digital Switch Over

Arqiva confirms that the first stage of the Digital Switch Over process for the Winter Hill transmitter group in north-west England has been implemented successfully.

The first digital TV multiplex is now being transmitted at high power from Winter Hill and 68 dependent relays in Liverpool, Manchester, Lancashire, Cheshire and north Staffordshire: Austwick, Backbarrow, Bacup, Barrow Town Hall, Bidston, Birch Vale, Blackburn, Bollington, Brinscall, Broadbottom, Brook Bottom, Burbage, Buxton, Cartmel, Chaigley, Chatburn, Chinley, Congleton, Dalton, Darwen, Delph, Dog Hill, Elton, Far Highfield, Glossop, Haslingden, Haughton Green, Ladder Hill, Lancaster, Langley, Lees, Littleborough, Macclesfield, Manchester Hulme, Melling HP/VP, Middleton, Millom Park, Moss Bank, Mottram, Newchurch, Norden, North Oldham, Oakenhead, Over Biddulph, Parbold, Pendle Forest, Penny Bridge, Portwood, Prestbury, Ramsbottom, Ribblesdale, Romiley, Roose HP/VP, Saddleworth, Skelmersdale, Staveley-in-Cartmel, Stockport, Storeton, Trawden, Urswick, Walton-le-Dale, Wardle, West Kirby, Whaley Bridge, Whalley, Whitewell, Whitworth and Woodhook

The BBC Two analogue signal was switched off at 00:28 on Wednesday 4 November 2009 and the new high-power digital signal for the BBC A (PSB1) multiplex, which carries channels including BBC One, BBC Two, BBC Three, CBBC and BBC News, went into official service at 04:00 from Winter Hill, with the last of the relays coming on stream by 14:59.

Peter Heslop, DSO Programme Director at Arqiva, said: "We are pleased to confirm that all stations in the Winter Hill transmitter group have successfully completed the first stage of Digital Switch Over. The remaining analogue and low-power digital services will be switched off in the early hours of 2 December when the other five multiplexes will be converted at Winter Hill and the remaining two Public Service multiplexes added at the relay stations."

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Arqiva is the transmission provider for all terrestrial TV and most radio services in the UK.

- Ends -

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 business units:

Terrestrial Broadcast 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 provides global communication platforms to enterprise, government and broadcast customers around the world. It owns and operates teleports at key locations including Los Angeles, Washington, London and Paris, as well as comprehensive satellite capacity, an international terrestrial fibre network and extensive media facilities. These enable Arqiva to provide world leading organisations with a comprehensive range of services to deliver their data, broadcasts and media across the globe.

Wireless Access 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. Major customers include the BBC, ITV, Channel 4, Five, BSkyB, Classic FM, the five UK mobile operators and the emergency services.

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