



PRESS RELEASE

Date: 31 March 2010

Arqiva completes Digital Switch Over in Wales

- **Wenvoe transmitter group covering Cardiff and SE Wales has switched, including HD services**
- **Terrestrial TV now fully digital throughout Wales**
- **Five-year, £700 million DSO project remains on schedule despite coldest winter for 30 years**

Arqiva, the communications infrastructure and media services company behind Digital Switch Over, has completed the final stage of switching Wales over to all-digital terrestrial television. The Wenvoe transmitter group, including 74 local relay stations and covering 649,000 homes in South Wales, was the last of eight areas in Wales to be completely switched over from analogue to digital TV services. The region includes homes that previously had no access to digital terrestrial TV services but now have High Definition (HD) TV services.

Peter Heslop, DSO programme director at Arqiva, said: "Digital Switch Over is the biggest and most complex broadcast engineering project in the UK's history, involving work at more than 1100 transmission sites across the UK. With many sites on hilltops in remote areas this winter has been particularly challenging, so we're proud that we've been able to hit all our key milestones in Wales, culminating in completing the Wenvoe switchover today."

The physical geography of Wales, including many mountains and narrow valleys, means that 195 local relay transmitters are required to deliver universal terrestrial TV coverage in addition to the eight major stations. With so many remote relay stations to convert to digital, the logistical challenge of transporting heavy equipment was further complicated by the high winds, rain and heavy snow experienced this winter. The Arqiva DSO team drew on local resources, specialist vehicles and even helicopters to ensure the project was delivered on schedule.

For the Wenvoe transmitter group, a team of 25 local engineers, with more than 500 years of industry experience between them, travelled a total of 2,500 miles to implement and co-ordinate the switch over of 74 local relay stations. Following switch-off of the BBC Two analogue signal on 3 March 2010, the remaining analogue signals for BBC One, ITV1, S4C and Five were switched off just after midnight on Wednesday 31 March. The new high-

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power digital transmissions entered official service at Wenvoe, Aberdare, Abergavenny, Ebbw Vale and Pontypool at 05:50, with all but one* of the relays completed by 16:45.

Arqiva is the transmission provider for all terrestrial TV and most radio services in the UK. It is charged with replacing all existing analogue and low-power digital transmitters and replacing them with a new high-power network for Freeview, under the auspices of Digital UK.

- Ends -

Note to editors

All six digital TV multiplexes are now being transmitted from Wenvoe, Aberdare and Pontypool, while the three public-service multiplexes (including HD) are being carried for the first time from 72 relays in south-east Wales: Aberbeeg, Abercynon, Abergavenny, Abertillery, Abertridwr, Bargoed, Bedlinog, Blackmill, Blaenau Gwent, Blaenavon, Blaenllechau, Blaina, Brecon, Chepstow, Clydach, Clyro, Crickhowell, Crucorney, Crumlin, Cwm Ffrwd-oer*, Cwmafon, Cwmaman, Cwmfelinfach, Deri, Dowlais, Ebbw Vale, Ebbw Vale South, Ferndale, Fernhill, Gelli-fendigaid, Gilfach, Llanfach, Llanfoist, Llangeinor, Llanharan, Llanhilleth, Llyswen, Machen Upper, Maesteg, Merthyr Tydfil, Monmouth, Mynydd Bach, Mynydd Machen, Nant-y-Moel, Nantyglo, Ogmore Vale, Pennar, Pennorth, Penrhiwceiber, Pontypridd, Porth, Rhondda Fach, Rhondda HP/VP, Rhymney, Risca, Sennybridge, South Maesteg, South Tredegar, Taffs Well, Ton Pentre, Tonypany, Tonyrefail, Trebanog, Trecastle, Trefechan, Treharris, Tynewydd, Upper Killay, Usk, Van Terrace, Wattsville and Ynysowen.

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 significant 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. Customers include major broadcasters such as the BBC, ITV, BSkyB and the independent radio groups, major telco providers including the UK's five mobile network operators, and the emergency services.

www.arqiva.com

For more information please contact:

Nicola Blunt/Iago John
Harvard Public Relations
Tel: +44 (0) 207 861 2800

Bruce Randall
Arqiva, Winchester
Tel: +44 (0)1962 822582