

Circom Report

CIRCOM Regional Newsmonthly • CR is the European Association of 380 Public Regional TV Stations in 38 countries • October 2002/No 36

Action Plan to boost CR future activities

On the twentieth anniversary of CIRCOM Regional an action plan will be approved that will boost CR future activities up to 2006.

As CR General Secretary Marija Nemcic reports "In order to make this future less open to speculations, it is high time that after twenty years of existence we revive all the activities, set our goals and objectives, recognize our new potentials, recognize specific needs of each particular member station, develop new activities, yet stick to the specialities that give CR its singularity".

EBU to distribute AIDS programming as part of World AIDS Day initiative

The European Broadcasting Union announced that, in association with MTV (Music Television), it will be offering to its Members hours of free-to-air AIDS programming including 90 minutes of rights-free concerts, in an initiative linked to World AIDS Day entitled "Staying Alive".

The first concert will take place on 7 November 2002 in Seattle, Washington, and feature multi-platinum acts such as Missy Elliott, Dave Matthews and others. The second will be staged in Cape Town, South Africa, two weeks later and feature Grammy-winning artist Alicia Keys. The two concerts will be edited together to premiere on television channels worldwide on 1 December – World AIDS Day – as a 90-minute commercial-free special.

Bjørn Erichsen, director of television at the EBU, whose 71 active members include national broadcasters in and around Europe, thanked MTV for making this programming available free of rights to EBU Members.

"MTV have been the driving force behind this campaign and we greatly appreciate their efforts," Erichsen said. "The EBU is pleased to play its part in the dissemination of this programming and information, by distributing it to television stations Europe-wide, free of any charge. We will now do our utmost to make sure it is seen by as wide an audience as possible, and give the utmost benefit to The EBU's members, served by the



Eurovision network, have a combined this important health initiative." include national broadcasters in and potential audience of 640 million viewers.

The campaign is aimed at boosting HIV/AIDS awareness worldwide and encouraging partnerships between business, media, non-governmental organizations and charitable foundations.

Further details may be found at <http://www.staying-alive.org/>

For further information contact:

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CR EC meeting in Italy, Nov. 29

The next CIRCOM Regional Executive Committee and European Board meeting will be held in Italy, Nov. 29. The exact location is still to be defined, but it's probable – as usual – to be the city where the CR annual conference will be held.

RTVE joins CIRCOM Regional

RTVE, the Spanish national public broadcaster, is joining CIRCOM Regional. This is a major addition to the chain of European public TV stations and networks already in the CR union.

New CR National Co-ordinators

New National Co-ordinators for CIRCOM Regional include: Oli Grueva (Bulgaria), Mikkjal Helmsdal (Faroe Islands). Their appointment is to be confirmed by the European Board in November.

Another Euromusica

There's another Euromusica on this planet, besides the prestigious CIRCOM Regional annual event. It's a company that organizes musical events like concerts and the Asolo ArtFilm Festival in Asolo, Italy.

CR programs on EbS in October – November

Some of the most interesting CR programs are on EbS (Europe by Satellite) on the following dates:

- "Europeos No 17" (France 3) and "Swiss World No 8" (TSI Lugano). Both will be broadcast on Oct. 16 (22 CET), 17 (05.30 CET), 19 (11.00 CET)
- "Balkan TV Magazine" and "Balkan-Video Clip-Magazine" (both from ERT3) on Oct. 23, 24 and 26 (same hours as above)
- "Eine Koniglich – bayerische Musikreise" and "Holzstabfabrication in Eisfeld" (both from BR Munich) on Oct. 30, 31 and Nov. 2 (same hours as above).

Deadline for participation is January 31

Int'l Prize for Mediterranean Documentary Film – making and Reporting by CMCA

The International Prize for Mediterranean Documentary Film-making and Reporting is one of the CMCA activities. The CMCA – a non-governmental organization – is an association that gathers together television bodies, producers and audiovisual actors from the Mediterranean area in the broadest sense.

The CMCA facilitates exchanges so that members may produce or co-produce documentary films, programmes or audiovisual products in order to promote common cultural values for development and peace. The CMCA operates within a network of associations or partner institutions that share or contribute to the same objectives.

The aim of the International Prize for Mediterranean Documentary Film-making and Reporting is to promote and award a prize to the best quality and creativity

REGULATION

Article 1 Participation

The CMCA, along with support from the RAI and collaboration from a host city in Italy, organizes the International Prize for Mediterranean Documentary Film-making and Reporting for which it fulfils the duty of Secretariat.

The International Prize for Mediterranean Documentary Film-making and Reporting is open to all television bodies (public and private), all production organizations (public, private and associated), all authors, film-makers and journalists that, through their programmes or art, participate in the information processor cultural exchanges between countries in the Mediterranean area in the broadest sense from the coasts of the Atlantic to the Black Sea.

Article 2 Prizes

Three Prizes are awarded to competing programmes:

1. "Mediterranean Challenges" Prize (Value of 5,000 Euros)
This prize is awarded to the best reporting programme that contributes to exposing Mediterranean challenges. A report is a journalistic work that is to be transmitted through television news or a programme or an information session. It is a work (programme, special report or investigation) that is produced by taking current events and a fast production turnover into account. Reports lasting a maximum of 30 minutes compete in this category.

2. CMCA "Quality and Creation" Prize (Value of 5,000 Euros)

This prize is awarded to the best creative documentary film. Its conception quality, work on content and writing, and its form are all taken into account. A documentary film is a work produced by a film - maker, with or without the author's contribution. Documentary films lasting between 13 and 90 minutes compete in this category.

3. "Memories of the Mediterranean" Prize (Value of 5,000 Euros)

This prize is awarded to the work that, with or without archives, best expresses the ability to render past facts topical as well as individual or collective stories from men and women of the Mediterranean, its countryside and heritage, its sites, its symbolic and remembered locations, its cultural and artistic assets. Current event reports, creative documentary films and information or education films produced by cultural institutions and with a maximum duration of 90 minutes compete in this category.

These prizes will be jointly presented to film - makers and authors of the winning programmes.

Each work competes in only one of the three prizes. This choice must be clearly indicated by the participant to the Prize.

There is the possibility that other Prizes may be awarded. Enquiries are currently being made to European authorities.

A Special Prize from the Public of the Host City (Value of 3,000 Euros) – should this take place, a special prize will be awarded following the screening of competing films, subtitled in Italian, either to a large public or a non-professional Jury chosen amongst the residents of the Host City. Criteria for this Prize shall be established by the Host City. If necessary, they shall be subsequently relayed.

Article 3 Content of Submitted Programmes

The programmes of works presented:

- Must deal with subjects related to life, exchanges, culture, heritage, history, men and women, countries and communities in the Mediterranean area
- Must not contain any form of advertising, special advertising features or propaganda
- Must have been produced within 24 months preceding the deadline for selection
- May or may not have been broadcast by a television channel or have been on cinema release
- May not have already been presented at a previous

ceremony. Each programme may only be presented on a single occasion

In the case a programme has been co-produced, it may only be entered into the competition by one of the bodies that participated in co-production, insofar as this body has sought prior agreement from its partners. The name of all co-producers must be included on the registration form.

Article 4 Programme Selection

All programmes submitted for participation in the Prizes must be addressed to the CMCA.

A selection of these programmes is established by a Selection Committee gathered by the CMCA with the participation of the RAI

In accordance with the attached calendar, selection is done prior to convening the international Jury.

• The Secretary General of the CMCA, in its role as Secretary of the Prize, heads the Chairmanship of the Selection Committee, which may be replaced by the director of the CMCA

• Members of the Selection Committee for any given year may not be members of the international Jury during the same year

• The Selection Committee is supreme and its decisions are final

• The list of chosen films for the final stage in Italy shall not be revealed until the international Jury opens its session

Article 5 Technical Standards and registration form

5-1) Programmes competing in the selection shall be sent as VHS video tape (Pal/Secam). They shall conform to the current technical standards for production

5-2) Programmes must include a registration form and the following:

- Technical Form indicating: Production country, year, subject, direction, editing, music, format, production, possible broadcast
- Biography of author and / or film-maker (maximum 1 page)
- Synopsis of work submitted (1 page)

These documents must be sent in any one of the three official Prize languages, namely French, English or Italian. Further promotional material, press kit or other may also be included.

5-3) Should the program be selected for presentation to the International Jury at final stage, the following items shall be requested (which you must therefore have from the start of your entry to the Prize)

- A Beta SP version
- A 2nd VHS copy
- A full time coded script in two languages: the programme language and a full translation in French, English or Italian

5-4) The CMCA shall return all sent tapes upon request that have not been retained by the Selection Committee to participants

5-5) Beta SP and VHS tapes of selected programmes for the final stage shall remain in the CMCA archives. They shall be subject only to studies, or research or any actions as stipulated in Article 7-3.

Article 6 International Jury

• The International Jury consists of members appointed and jointly agreed to between the organizers, namely the CMCA, the RAI and the organizing City

• Jury members must have good knowledge of two out of three official Prize languages (French, English and Italian)

• The international Jury fulfils its duties with assistance from the Secretary of the Prize (or a member designated by the Secretary). No decision made by the international Jury

• may be officially validated in the absence of this Consultant who does not participate in the voting process

in content and artistic forms of different competing programmes. Established in 1994, this event is an international competition with a set of prizes aimed to award works and audiovisual documents in the field of documentary film-making, reporting and investigative film that depict the problems in the Mediterranean today.

The International Prize for Mediterranean Documentary Film-making and Reporting is also an opportunity for professionals in the audiovisual field to meet every year and contribute to the dialogue and cooperation between all countries in the Mediterranean area.

This competition was first held in France in Marseille (1994 and 1995), then in Italy in Palermo – Sicily (1996-2000) and in Soverato Calabria (2002).

• No Jury member may become an actual member of the international Jury without having participated in the constituting session. The President has the right to exclude any Jury members that may not have been present at the viewing of all competing works

• The international Jury meets behind closed doors and its deliberations are secret

• Jury members may not abstain from participating in deliberations

• Decisions are taken by the majority of members, if however, the majority has not been met by the third ballot, the President has a casting vote

• The international Jury may not award ex-aequo prizes

• If the international Jury decides that one of the prizes may not be awarded, reasons for this decision must be made in writing

• The international Jury is supreme and its decisions are final

Article 7 Commitments of Participants

7-1) By submitting a programme to the International Prize for Mediterranean Documentary Film-making and Reporting competition, participants unconditionally accept to abide by the present regulation

7-2) Organisers of the International Prize for Mediterranean Documentary Film-making and Reporting shall make an effort to promote awarded programmes to all bodies or organizations that are open to provide substantial activity

7-3) Participating in the Prize entails the acceptance of the following:

• By all participants, the screening to the public or non-professional Jury for the Special Prize from the Public of the Host City

• By all awarded films, the non-commercial screening for any promotional actions of Mediterranean audiovisual work. The calendar for these actions shall be relayed to any interested parties to which they will be linked insofar as possible

Article 8 Practical Instructions

All films and correspondence must be addressed to:

CMCA – 96, La Canebiere – 13001 Marseille – France

Telephone: 00 33 (0) 4 91 42 03 02

Fax: 00 33 (0) 4 91 42 01 83

E-mail: cmca@cmca-med.org

The envelope must be clearly marked with:

International Prize for Mediterranean Documentary Film – making and Reporting

The registration form within the envelope must clearly indicate which Prize (and only one) the work is being entered for, namely:

• "Mediterranean Challenges" Prize (Value of 5,000 Euros)

• CMCA "Quality and Creation" Prize (Value of 5,000 Euros)

• "Memories of the Mediterranean" Prize (Value of 5,000 Euros)

The carefully completed registration form shall be signed by a person entitled to do so

Schedule

September 2002 Prize Launch, 8th edition

31 January 2003 Deadline for receipt of documentary films and reports. All films must have been produced after January 2001

24 to 28 February 2003 Selection Committee

From Wednesday 9 to Sunday 13 April 2003 = Dates

Currently held for the final stage of the Prize in an Italian City



Romanian Peles Palace excites CR E.C. members

TVR (Romania Television) hosted the recent CIRCOM Regional Executive Committee meeting in Bucharest. Violeta Oltean and Elena Spanily, with their usual organizational skill, prepared everything and the visit ran smoothly. The most exciting part was an excursion to the Peles

Palace, in Sinaia, a “must” for everyone, because among other things, it was one of the first residences in Europe to utilise an electric lift, an electric vacuum cleaner and even a central heating system – in the beginning of the 20th century

Media faces market abuse clamp down

EU journalists could be forced to disclose the investments they own and told how to write articles about stocks and shares under proposals endorsed by a leading MEP.

The move, attacked by publishing groups, is part of the latest draft of a directive designed to clamp down on market abuse and insider trading by rogue company directors and stock market players.

Luxembourg socialist Robert Goebbels, rapporteur for the directive, told the assembly's economic and monetary affairs committee that journalists should be covered. "As a former journalist I would be the first to fight against any attack of freedom of the press but I don't think we should exempt them by guaranteeing their impunity".

Angela Mills, director of the European Publishers Council, said the extra rules were unnecessary because reputable newspapers and other media had their own disciplinary systems to ensure the vast majority of journalists played fair.

The committee was scheduled to vote on the law on October 8. The full Parliament is scheduled to hold a second reading during plenary session on October 21-28.

Newsroom management seminar in Maastricht

A Newsroom Management Seminar, will be held in Maastricht, October, 29-31, organised by the European Journalism Centre, Maastricht.

This seminar, run by Per Andersson, former editor of the Swedish Channel 1 news programme and a trainer in newsroom management since 1995, has been so successful that it is now a regular feature in the EJC's seminar programme.

It offers the opportunity to brush up on management techniques, managers deal with the challenge of motivating staff and running an efficient newsroom. The course also trains managers in leadership techniques, coaching staff, organising a creative working environment that works efficiently and dealing with conflicts in the newsroom.

For more information about this seminar, visit:

<http://www.ejc.nl/cp/courses.asp?recordID=443>

BBC wins government backing for new channel

The UK government has approved BBC3, a free-to-air digital channel aimed at 25-34 year olds, but with some of the strictest guidelines ever imposed on a television station.

The decision by Culture Secretary Tessa Jowell followed her rejection last year of the state-owned British Broadcasting Corporation's original proposals for the youth channel, saying they were insufficiently distinctive from other commercial channels.

BBC3, which will replace BBC Choice, the broadcaster's existing digital channel, is aimed at a young adult audience long seen as under-represented in programming. It is likely to launch early next year, after the debut of Freeview, the BBC's digital terrestrial system set to appear in October.

Ms Jowell's issued 12 conditions including an insistence that 80 per cent of BBC3 output must be original programming made especially for the channel. She also said 90 per cent of programmes must be made in Europe to prevent BBC3 buying excessive volumes of American shows.

ITV, the BBC's main commercial competitor which fears head-on competition from the licence-fee funded BBC, applauded Ms Jowell's "stringent" conditions.

EC Journalism prize for human right and development

The International Federation of Journalists (IFJ), launched a call for entries to the Lorenzo Natali Prize for Journalism recognising the best of journalism in 2001.

The Prize worth EUR 10,000 will be awarded to a journalist in each of the following five regions: Europe; Asia and the Pacific; Africa; Latin America and the Caribbean; North Africa and the Middle East.

The Lorenzo Natali Prize is awarded to print and/or on-line journalists who have demonstrated a striking insight and particular dedication to the reporting of human rights issues within the context of the development process. Entries closed on September 23. For more information on the Lorenzo Natali Prize visit the IFJ website

<http://www.ifj.org/hrights/lorenzo/inpr.html>

Post – transmatic stress for war correspondents

A "culture of silence" among war reporters suffering from post-traumatic stress prevents them seeking professional help, psychiatrist Anthony Feinstein has claimed.

Feinstein, associated professor at the University of Toronto, said a survey of 140 war reporters from six leading news organisations showed they were more likely to suffer from symptoms of depression than colleagues away from the battle zone.

Symptoms included nightmares, flashbacks, irritability, troubled relationships and alcohol abuse. But war correspondents were unlikely to seek treatment despite being "profoundly affected by their symptoms".

British media gets the message

Media companies in the UK are starting to realise the huge potential of SMS, or the short mobile messages service, as a medium on its own, according to the Media Guardian.

SMS, which enables cell phone users to send and view text messages on their mobile phone screens, has grown to be one of the most popular new technologies, with more than 45 million text messages sent every day.

However, Media Guardian noted, media owners have only recently started to take advantage of the system to help their relationships with users and advertisers. Among media companies who have made the step towards using SMS as a news and advertising vehicle are radio group GWR, media company Emap, and Capital Radio. For example, GWR's CoreControl service is offering users interactive charts, the opportunity to send music requests and dedications, and the latest pop gossip.

According to Media Guardian, SMS marketing campaigns could be more efficient than traditional direct mail, but spam remains a problem. "If you get hundreds of SMS messages you are not interested in, that won't be any different to what happened with email," said a GWR official.

Training of Journalists for the Enlargement in Austria, Oct. 21-22

"Up to date on Enlargement: Get the information you need on your desktop" is the topic of seminar to be held in Graz, Austria, October 21-22, organised by the European Journalism Centre, Maastricht.

As the enlargement negotiations move into their last phase, there is a lot of information about the general political discussions. But if journalists want to find out some of the details of the negotiations and what it means for people and business in their region or town, they have to spend a lot of time going through massive documents and trying to find contacts.

The EJC is organising this training seminar for journalists and SME representative in Austria that will teach participants how to use an internet-based system for news preparation and news exchange. The system offers the possibility to post and sell stories, to request stories and information and to use the growing archive of news available in the system. Journalists can use it to prepare targeted stories on specific issues of enlargement.

For more information about this seminar, visit:

<http://www.ejc.nl/cp/courses.asp?recordID=474>

Equality in the newsroom questioned

Some male editors and publishers disagree with a recent survey that claimed that sexism prevents female editors from advancing in the newsroom.

Only one in three of top women editors questioned in the study said they expected to move up the career ladder with their current newspaper. Among those women who believed they were blocked from advancement, 64 per cent said their employers normally favoured male candidates. More than half expect to leave their current company or the newspaper business altogether.

Some men who have spent decades in the industry said they did not see sexism at such high levels, citing the recent appointments of first-time women chief editors in several cities.

"It doesn't track with my own experience," said Heath J. Meriwether, the Detroit Free Press publisher who recently appointed the paper's first woman editor. "I don't think sexism is a barrier, but it is important to deal with that perception."

William Dean Singleton, vice chairman and CEO of MediaNews Group, agreed: "I've never noticed that there was any discrimination based on sex," he said. "But I don't see every newsroom and every newspaper."

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette Editor and Senior Vice President John G. Craig has also seen little evidence of discrimination: "My sense is that it is not true."

Euronews targets a bigger audience

Pan-European news channel EuroNews has signed an agreement making it available in the Czech Republic, Serbia and Montenegro.

EuroNews signed the agreement with cable operator KDS, bringing their English language service to 26,000 homes in the Belgrade and Novi Sad areas.

In the Czech republic, where EuroNews is partially carried on terrestrial CT2, it has just signed an agreement with UPC Czech Republic, the largest cable operator in the country. It will now have both English and German feeds on its 10 channel 'Lifeline' package, which has some 300,000 subscribers.

EuroNews is now available to 124 million homes worldwide, including 15 million in Eastern and Central Europe, via cable, satellite and terrestrial.

EU Solidarity Fund welcomed by Bore

Committee of the Regions President Albert Bore has welcomed the adoption by the European Commission of detailed proposals for an EU solidarity fund. These open the way for local and regional authorities to play a full part in the management of EU support for disaster-affected areas.

"The Committee of the Regions has already - in 2000 - proposed the creation of such a fund to help regions struck by sudden disasters, said **Albert Bore**. This is why, in the wake of the recent floods which have affected many parts of Europe, I wrote to **President Prodi** to offer the CoR's full support for the Commission's initiative. Local and regional authorities are active on the ground in managing emergency responses to disasters, so a tripartite approach, combining European, national and local or regional government is the best way to ensure that any aid provided is used in a well targeted way".

The CoR President calls on the relevant Member States to ensure that local and regional authorities are fully associated with their efforts to bring relief to affected areas.

"It is now for the Council and the European Parliament to act quickly to approve the Commission's plans, he says, maintaining the proposal for agreements between the European, national and local or regional levels to put aid projects into action. Implemented in the right way, this initiative could help reinforce citizens' feeling of belonging to the EU".

"We need to focus much more on prevention and risk management, continues the CoR President. A European natural disaster prevention policy is urgently needed. Local and regional authorities have a crucial role to play in its development, since they have practical experience of what works in this field".

CNN boss slams 'parachute' journalism

Chris Cramer, president of CNN International, has slammed rival broadcasters who send journalists into the field with little more than a "fistful of press clippings". Mr Cramer, speaking at a broadcast conference in Amsterdam, warned that "parachuting some joker" into foreign stories is no substitute for working with experienced reporters who know the territory. He appeared to favour using local journalists or correspondents who live in the area: "People who live there speak the language, understand the context," he said.

Controversially, he added: "Parachute journalism by some of the American media was one of the reasons that the audience in the United States was so ill-prepared for the events of September 11th."

Mr Cramer went on to say that all companies face competitive deadlines which endanger accuracy. However, he believes, news managers and their bosses need to allow correspondents more time to discover the truth behind a story.

"A reporter with nothing to say can be lured sometimes into the area of speculation. And that can't be right," he added.

“CrossLingual” network of policy portals with EU support

EurActiv prepares a “CrossLingual” network of policy portals with EU support. The CrossLingual II project aims at diffusing EU policy content in several languages and on several networks by 2004.

The CrossLingual II consortium, led by online media EurActiv.com, was awarded a contract under the e-Content programme of the Directorate General "Information Society". Consortium members and partners held a successful first meeting on 27 September at the International Press Centre in Brussels. The partners were also present at an open training on online information for 120 media professionals, on Thursday, 26 September.

Consortium members and partners bring skills and countries together.

Besides EurActiv.com, the CrossLingual II consortium consists of Systran (language software developer), the International Federation of Journalists, DB Scape (specialist in multilingual content management) and Telelingua (translation support). The project includes representative “EU Actors”, such as think-tank CEPS, industry federation UNICE, NGOs like WWF and BEUC, as well as a consultancy, McKinsey.

The project will over time be extended to Central and Eastern European media, specialised in EU policies, including Bruxinfo (Hungary), EON (Slovenia), Club Europa (Romania), Integratec (Czech Republic), Unia Polska (Poland), Novinite (Bulgaria) and Abhaber (Turkey).

The CrossLingual II Project

Following up on a successful EU project implemented in 2001, the “CrossLingual II Network” will progressively establish an online network of web portals distributing multilingual localised content on EU policies. Over the next two years, the online network will build on the technology and content model of the EurActiv portal and the experience of its partners. It has three main dimensions:

Three EurActiv mini-offices will complement content in English, French and German

As the core of the network of policy portals, EurActiv.com will establish, within the next two years, three mini-offices in Paris, London and Berlin. These offices will promote the three language versions of the EurActiv.com portal and support customised content and links for the three national audiences, France, UK and Germany.

Seven Eastern European portals will translate and localise EurActiv’s policy content.

The network will also include seven new portals in Eastern Europe. EurActiv’s content will be selected, translated and adapted locally via syndication deals with the seven content partners.

EurActiv’s multilingual content will be available for syndication to “EU Actors” websites, media news sites and mobile operators

New technological developments will enable content syndication of EurActiv’s content for websites of EU policy stakeholders (thereby improving the democratic debate), for news sites of other media and mobile content providers.

Alexander Riedl, EurActiv’s Development Director and manager of the CrossLingual project for EurActiv, commented: “It was a challenge to finalise this project proposal and define the roles of the partners. The added value of this project is huge, the partners are excited, and we now have two years to roll out the network, step-by-step.”

Christophe Leclercq, Publisher, stated: “Our intention was never to only set up a Brussels-centric, English-only media, especially now that we have a great team and an impressive list of industry sponsors and NGO partners. The Commission finances half of the costs of this CrossLingual network of portals and sponsors will finance the other half. By 2004, we will become the best European platform for open policy debates.”

EurActiv.com is the leading private sector portal on EU Affairs. With more than 700,000 pageviews per month, the website is an important working instrument for the majority of EU Actors (institutions, industry federations, NGOs, think tanks, the press and others) involved in defining or influencing EU policies. EurActiv is sponsored by the EU Commission, Solvay, McKinsey, CEPS, Club Europa Romania and Toyota Motor Europe and 12 section sponsors.

For more information, call Willy De Backer, Editor, at +32 2 226.58.14 or email editor@euractiv.com or Christophe Leclercq, Publisher at +32 2 223.58.13 or email publisher@euractiv.com The EurActiv website is available via www.euractiv.com

Dutch trials for digital TV

Digitenne is to begin trials of wireless digital TV (DTV) and radio broadcasting in the Netherlands at the end of October.

This service will initially cover the cities of Haarlem, Amsterdam and Hilversum with some 1.3m potential users, and will extend to the rest of the country by 2004.

Digitenne, a consortium which includes the Dutch broadcasting facility (NOB), the Dutch transmission operator (Nozema) and broadcaster Canal+, was awarded a DVB-T licence by the Dutch government in January 2002.

Subscribers to this service will pay a monthly charge of nine euros, slightly lower than the average 10.32 euros monthly charge for a cable connection and will need a 15cm-tall antenna and a set-top receiver the size of a videocassette.

Although an internet service is being considered for the future, Digitenne subscribers will be able to receive and play television and radio programmes on their PCs when the initial service commences.

Reuters.com offers content purchase

Reuters.com is now using the iCopyright Instant Clearance Service that allows readers to license and purchase online content or request custom reprints, according to Seattle-based Data Depth Corp., which owns iCopyright.

When users click on the iCopyright icon, they are asked if they want to re-use the content for commercial or non-profit use. They are then presented with a list of licensing prices and options, including instant Web reprints, custom reprints, and photocopy licenses.

David Frost takes key role at News World 2002

Sir David Frost - one of the world's most eminent and accomplished political interviewers - is to chair the keynote debate at this year's News World in Dublin in November.

Sir David - who rose to fame on both sides of the Atlantic as both a TV satirist and hard hitting topical interviewer - now hosts the influential Breakfast with Frost political programme on BBC TV. Over 40 years he has interviewed almost every major political figure in the world including, most memorably, his revealing, in-depth discussions with disgraced US president Richard Nixon.

At News World, Sir David will preside over the vital Deadline Debate, inviting leading politicians, journalists and analysts to discuss the ever-widening gap between government and the media, and the effect their distrust of each other has on the democratic process.

News World was inaugurated in 1995 in Berlin and has run annually since then. This year's event takes place in Dublin, Ireland, at the Burlington Hotel from 19th to 21st November.

Registration for News World Dublin is available at www.newsworld.org and includes access to all sessions, breakfast and lunch, the opening and closing receptions, admission to the exhibition.

Further information from also available from Patrick Stoddart - pstoddart@newsworld.org or at contact details below.

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CNN debuts new streetside studio

Joining four other networks on the crowded New York streets, CNN has unveiled a new morning show studio with windows that overlook a Manhattan sidewalk. The 185-square-meter studio, built for a reported \$15 million (15.2m euros) in the Time & Life Building, will house the network's three-hour programme, 'American Morning with Paula Zahn.'

Since NBC's 'Today' show saw its ratings mushroom a decade ago after building a streetside studio in Rockefeller Center, other networks have followed suit. ABC's 'Good Morning America' broadcasts out of Times Square and 'The Early Show' on CBS is on Fifth Avenue near Central Park.

The studio also dramatically boosts the Atlanta-based CNN's presence in New York City. Four of its most high-profile shows now originate from New York. Connie Chung's nightly newscast is in an enclosed studio next to Zahn's, while Aaron Brown's 'Newsnight' and Lou Dobbs' 'Moneyline' are also Manhattan-based.

Tracey Spector, a Fox News Channel spokeswoman, said: "Based on Ms Paula's ratings, this is nothing more than rearranging the deck chairs on the Titanic. But we wish her well." Ms Zahn worked for Fox News Channel before jumping to CNN last year.

Journalist with tech skills wanted

CNN International President Chris Cramer highlighted the increased need for journalists with technical skills in a speech at the International Broadcast Convention in Amsterdam, the BBC reported.

The high cost of covering international events has increased the expectation that skilled journalists will work across platforms to produce stories and images for television, radio and online alike, Mr Cramer said.

But while new tech tools such as videophones have brought more immediacy to international reporting, the negative side to the new technologies and 24-hour-news cycle has been an increase in inaccuracies and speculation, he added.

New BBCi studio in West London

The BBC has launched the latest phase of its DTV drive, revealing five new street-level windows at its West London interactive studio.

The initiative allows passers-by to watch and listen to programmes that are being broadcast from the studio.

There is also the ability to send mobile phone text messages to the programmes, answers to which will appear on a giant display outside. Aspects of the BBC's digital service, BBCi, are also available for exploration, with wall-mounted press-buttons giving the chance to view content such as live shows, previous BBCi shows, and trailers for forthcoming iTV offerings on giant plasma screens.

Through this medium, the BBC will give passers-by the opportunity to watch how BBCi is created, as they will be able to see directly into a multi-media-equipped studio where staff generate new ideas.

Lithuanian TV to start satellite broadcasts

Lithuanian national television intends to start broadcasting via the Sirius satellite next year, making its programmes available to European audiences, with English subtitles, said Valentinas Milaknis, managing director of the Lithuanian National Radio and Television (LRT).

"Even if LRT's programmes attract a small audience abroad, they will contribute to the promotion of Lithuania and its culture in Europe," said Mr Milaknis at a meeting of the Lithuanian Confederation of Industrialists. He added that the project would not require much investment or additional funds from the state budget. LRT also has plans to start broadcasting its programmes via the internet.

Radio: a viewing experience now

A new solution for interactive radio service using the Multimedia Home Platform was introduced by SofiaDigital and Jutel at IBC 2002, on September 13. iRadio will be available for any broadcaster transmitting radio through a DVB network. Currently, when a user is listening to digital radio channels via TV, the TV screen has to be blank. By using iRadio, a listener will be able to bring up programme-related information from the screen while listening to the radio on TV.

The content displayed on the TV screen can be synchronised with the radio programme. A broadcaster can provide listeners with a play-list, lyrics, images of singers, and any background information available on the show.

With additional features, a broadcaster can even create a service for presenting news or any other information that is of interest to the listener. The service can be enlarged to provide any interactive service via a radio channel.

iRadio enables the MHP service to be integrated into existing content production and delivery environments. iRadio runs on all DVB networks and any MHP terminal, as well as supporting all MHP middleware.

Four new predators of press freedom

Reporters Without Borders has published an updated list of what it calls "predators" of press freedom. After drawing up an initial list of 31 predators on 3 May 2001, and adding Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon in July, the group has added four new names, all from Asia.

The so-called predators are:

- Islamic militants. In Pakistan, they killed US journalist Daniel Pearl and have staged violent attacks on newspapers. In Algeria, they also killed dozens of reporters and continue to issue threats.
- Altaf Hossain Chowdhury, Home Affairs Minister of Bangladesh. More than 150 journalists have been attacked or threatened since he was appointed to this position in October 2001.
- The security forces in southern Philippines. Four journalists have been killed since 1 January 2001, on Mindanao island. Reporters without Borders claim that police officers and soldiers are responsible for these murders, but investigations have been blocked and witnesses are threatened.
- Sher Bahadur Deuba, Prime Minister of Nepal. When he imposed a state of emergency in November 2001 to combat "Maoist terrorism", Reporters without Borders claim the Prime Minister also resolved to cover up the arrests, torture and intimidation of journalists by the security forces, adding that he has turned the country into the "world's biggest prison for journalists".

EU announces new music licensing rules

European music rights for web broadcasting by radio and TV are about to receive a drastic overhaul that may have huge consequences for the market.

Currently, radio and TV stations that broadcast over the web have to pay a separate copyright fee, a cost that has forced a number of broadcasters to close down.

The new idea, introduced by the European Competition Commissioner at the request of 15 European country's music rights' societies, will be applicable across the EU and the neighbouring European Economic Area (such as Norway) - opening up the entire market to competition.

Instead of merely licencing music for broadcast in their own country, the societies will be able to licence for distribution across the EU at competitive rates. This will enable radio and TV broadcasters to shop around for the best rates in Europe.

Administrative and licence costs have always been included in a single fee but administrative costs will now be shown separately, allowing purchasers to compare deals and see the costs involved.

The decision was made by the Commissioner because such a joint agreement by these societies requires exemption from EU anti-trust laws and a guarantee of competitive policies, rather than price-fixing.

Festivals, workshops and more around Europe and the world

- October 15-17: BCE: Broadband Communications Europe www.broadband-convention.com
- October 18-22: San Remo, Italy. The 40th Annual Congress of the Association of European Journalists. Contact Executive Secretary of British Section, Kevin d' Arcy. 020 8981 4691 spokesman@btinternet.com
- October 24-25: Geneva. Eurotravel 2002. EBU conference about traffic and travel reporting, bringing together public broadcasters and new technology industries. Contact Elisabeth Ecoffey-Rod. ecoffey@ebu.ch
- October 29-31: Expo Comm Mexico Norte Cintermex www.ejkrause.com
- October 29-November 2: Broadcast India 2002 www.saicom.com/broadcastindia
- October 29-November 2: Expo Comm China South www.ejkrause.com
- November 18-23: News Editors Seminar (Strasbourg)
- November 1-2: Promax UK www.bda.tv
- November 3-6: Western Show www.calcable.org
- November 6-8: Broadcast Worldwide – BCWW 2002. TV Programme, Film, Animation, Exhibition & Conference Coex Seoul, Korea. www.bcww.net
- November 12-13: Athens. Global Sport Forum conference and exhibition, looking ahead to the Olympics in 2004, organized by the Stefi Production House. Tel: +44 20 7436 9120 www.globalsportforum.com
- November 12-14: ATVC/Jornadas www.atvc.org.ar
- November 15-24: Europe. Under the name, "Cinedays", there will be screenings and events to celebrate the history of European cinema, an initiative from the Education and Culture Directorate of the European Commission. Contact: dona.vanwetter@mostra.com +322 537 4400
- November 18-20: Latin American Screens Cartagena de Indias. Colombia (caroletvor@dial.oleane.com)
- November 18-21: DSLCON Europe www.dsicon.com
- November 19: International Emmy Awards Gala www.intcouncil@iemmys2000.com
- November 19-20: Promax Latin America 2002 www.bda.tv
- November 19-22: News World, the annual forum for the broadcast-news industry, at the Burlington Hotel, Dublin. 020 7491 0880 Email info@newsworld.org www.newsworld.org
- November 21-December 1: Int'l Documentary Film Festival www.idfa.nl
- December 1-5: German Screenings 2002
- December 2-3: Promax Asia www.bda.tv
- December 2-4: Streaming Media East www.streamingmedia.com
- December 2-7: ITU Telecom Asia www.itu.int/telecom
- December 2-5 Asia TV Forum 2002 www.asiatvforum.com
- December 3-5 Streaming Media Europe 2002 www.streamingmedia.com
- December 4-5: CASBAA www.casbaa.com

Murdoch exports Sky to Italy

Rupert Murdoch yesterday confirmed that News Corporation is to buy Italian pay-TV group Telepiu from struggling media rival Vivendi Universal in a near 900m euros deal.

He plans to combine his new acquisition with Stream, the pay-TV business News Corp owns in partnership with Telecom Italia, to form Sky Italia. News Corp will hold 80 per cent of the new venture and Telecom Italia the balance.

"This is a world-class property in an untapped market without cable competition," Mr Murdoch told a New York conference yesterday. "We would expect to see immediate subscriber growth, the elimination of piracy and compelling programming."

The merger of Telepiu and Stream, which is likely to have to pass the scrutiny of competition watchdogs in Brussels, is seen as a serious challenge to the traditional terrestrial channels in Italy which are split between Mediaset, controlled by prime minister Silvio Berlusconi's Fininvest, and state-owned Rai.

Whispers

185 participants were at the CR Kosice conference...Next year's conference will certainly be shorter...Regional Stations in Italy will have a more important, and expand role in the future

The CR Conference will probably be held from June 3-8...The 8th edition of the Mediterranean Documentary Film-Making & Reporting is now under preparation. Deadline for receipt of documentaries and reports is January 31, 2003...October 11 was the deadline for applications concerning the cameramen and editors seminar by Sony and Avid in cooperation with CR.

Circom Report

The "CIRCUM Report" is a monthly publication of CIRCUM Regional, the European Association of Public Regional TV Stations-available on the CR Internet site and coming to CR member stations and personnel either through E-mail or as an A4 size printed newsletter, through the CR General Secretariat from Zagreb. The French version of the CIRCUM Report is conceived and published by the Strasbourg Secretariat with support from the Region Alsace, the Conseil General du Bas-Rhin and the City of Strasbourg.

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All member stations are considered as potential contributors for this publication, with stories about new and innovative ideas, co-productions, exchanges, modern technologies, etc. Especially welcome are short stories and one-liners.

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