Digital broadcasting strategy in Czech Republic

Petr Vitek, Czech television
Interregional seminar
Kiev, Ukraine, 15. November 2000
Digital broadcasting strategy in Czech Republic

- Historical background
- State bodies, responsibilities
- Digital group – strategy document
- DVB-T group in Czech Television
- Conclusion
Historical background

• 1995 – Digital group in UK
• 1996 – Cooperation CT and CTU
• 1997 – Tender for two studies
• 1999 – Two licences for trials
• End of 1999 – Task of State Commission for media
• 12.5.2000 – First Digital terrestrial broadcasting
State bodies, responsibilities

- Czech Council for broadcasting
- Permanent state commission for media
- Czech Telecommunication Office (CTO)
- Government
- Ministry of transport and communications
- Ministry of culture
Current arrangements in Czech Republic

• CT1, CT2, NOVA, PRIMA – fullformat, fullarea terrestrial coverage
• Since 1997 DVB-S: CT1, CT2, PRIMA, TV3, HALLMARK, Czech Radio – 8000 users
• Since 2000 DVB-S - DTH– UPC Direct – number of users increases very rapidly
• Service terrestrial provider: Czech Radiocommunications, Czech Telecom
• Service satellite provider: Czech Link, Ltd.
• DVB-T trials: Czech Radiocommunications, Czech Digital Group
Czech Television

Czech Radiocom.  Czech Link

Transmitters

• Since Dec. 2000 – Control of Encryption
• Czech Radiocom. ↔ Czech Telecom
• Primary distribution: analog → digital
Digital group – strategy document

Management committee, expert group

5 stages:

1. Trial (2000-2001)
   • Transition period: 2. Pilot project (for viewers)
     3. Introduction DVB-T
     4. Analogue switch off period

5. Optimization of DVB-T network (5 - 6 MUX)
   • Terrestrial HDTV after analogue service?
   • Transition period: 2 – 3 MUX – international coordination
   • 2 MUXs - full coverage, 1 MUX – 70%
2 options in transition period:
• 1x Public MUX: CT1, CT2, CT3, …, others MUX: private stations
• 1x MUX: CT1, CT2, NOVA, PRIMA, TV3, others MUX: CT3, CT4, …,

Regulatory framework:
• Organization of channels
• Organization of MUX – new
• Range of regulation:
  1. How many tv services in MUXs?
  2. Regulation of spaces for services: max. 25 % for non-tv services = TV MUX
• Stop to giving analogue tv licences and analogue tv frequencies
• Specification of the set – top – box
• State support of the introduction DVB-T
• Conditions for switch off analog service
• Two licences for full terrestrial coverage: 2005
• ITU Conference 2003, 2005: Revision of Stockholm plan from 1961

Permanent state commission (30. June 2000)
Next meeting of commission: 16 Nov. 2000


• Legal issues: provider of the MUX, CA, EPG etc.
DVB - T group in Czech Television

• How shall look an offer of public services in digital enviroment?
• Proposals of content for transition period: not only a multiplication of current services but new services offered by the DVB.
• New services for physical handicap viewers (different position in comparison with commercial stations)
• Multichannel audio: fine arts, audio scene description
• 1 x public MUX for transition period with full coverage
• State shareholder: still 51 % in service providers
• Construction of digital terrestrial network by a state support
Conclusion

• Introduction of reasonable regulations in field of media
• Concentration on the introduction of DVB-T by broadcasters which offer FTA channels
• Promote the adoption of the open standards to avoid the vertical oriented market
• Determination of „digital“ conditions for current licenced broadcasters in reference to prolongations of their licences
• Ways of a state support of the DVB – T introduction