

PACIFIC MEDIA PARTNERSHIP CONFERENCE - 2015

TRANSITION TO DIGITAL TV:

UPDATES

■ 25 August 2015

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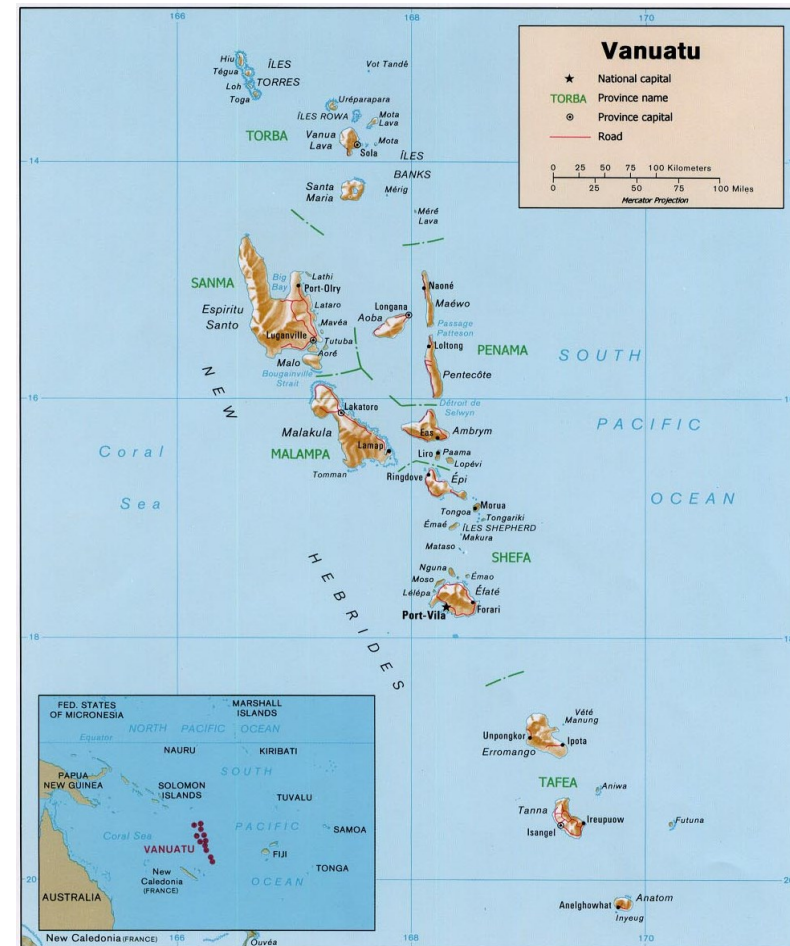
OUTLINE

- Update for Vanuatu
- Update for Samoa
- Covering:
 - Roadmap summary
 - Objectives and key topics from the Roadmap Report
 - Roadmap dates and general update



ITU ROADMAP SUMMARY - VANUATU

- Roadmap report developed in June 2013
- Input from the National Roadmap Team represented by OGCIO, VBTC, TRR and other broadcasters
- Primary aim: Expand existing FTA services from two provinces into all six provinces
- Currently TV only available in Shefa and Sanma Provinces, to approx. 60% homes
- 3 main services plus 3 community services
- Main centres linked in 2012 via the E-Govt DMR network for ICT services
- Single Mux planned, DVB-T2
- Multiplex operator functions yet to be decided
- To include TV & private radio broadcasters



KEY TOPICS/GOALS

- Separation of the regulation and operation duties from VTBC, requiring changes to the Broadcasting and Television Act.
- Develop a new independent entity to manage the DTTB multiplex, managing the technical standards, shared platform infrastructure, broadcasters and representing the single brand for consumers.
- Sources of funding, major issue to resolve.
- Infrastructure challenges, including feasibility of existing sites, content distribution, relationships with cellular operators and the E-Government Network.
- Limited availability of electricity supply throughout Vanuatu.
- STB conformance to technical standards and compatibility with neighbouring countries, such as Australia and New Zealand.
- Affordability for consumers and public awareness.
- Relationships with outside national administrations.
- Upgrades of television production facilities.
- Relationships with other broadcast platform operators.



ROADMAP UPDATE

- Deployment over three phases:
 1. Shefa, Sanma, Malampa & Tafea
 2. Penama & Torba
 3. Assessment of Coverage identify areas for infill

- Goal to begin digital transmissions by 2017.
- Largely awaiting for go-ahead to start the DTV Project.
- Currently attempting to secure external funding for Phase 1. Funding is a major issue. Seeking a second cost for comparison. Also awaiting for Council of Ministers for decision to use the E-Govt network.
- An Amendment is planned to go before parliament this year to separate the Regulatory role from VBTC. This will allow the Regulator to manage DTV expansion - independently. Freeing up VBTC from Regulation role, to be responsible for Broadcasting.
- Main linking backbone is planned for the E-Govt network, repeaters using TVL or Digicel sites. With site-sharing to be arranged.
- Governments have pledged their support, however no group is taking the lead to find funding or providing special funding for DTV rollout.
- Most site infrastructure is almost repaired after cyclone damage.
- Plans for acquiring STBs is awaiting go-ahead for the DTV project.



ITU ROADMAP SUMMARY - SAMOA

- Roadmap report developed in March 2014.
- 4 larger commercial broadcasters and 6 smaller commercial/religious broadcasters. Strong potential to work together.
- Input from the National Roadmap Team represented by OOTR, broadcast managers, and MCIT.
- Primary aim: Near national coverage for all broadcasters by working together reducing operational costs.
- Adopt an approach based on the 'Freeview' model used by Australia, NZ, UK that supports broadcasters working to a common standard, system and brand.
- DVB-T2, SD content, with options for HD for some broadcasters.



KEY TOPICS/GOALS

- Develop a new independent entity to manage the DTTB multiplex, managing the technical standards, shared platform infrastructure, broadcasters and representing the single brand for consumers. This not for profit entity is expected to consist of representatives from key stakeholders of the broadcasting industry, allowing resources to be cost effectively utilised and treating members' interests fairly.
- Sources of funding, determining upgrade costs of production facilities, digital equipment and costs of deployment.
- Investment in technical training and capacity building of staff resourcing.
- Infrastructure challenges, including feasibility of existing sites, selection of sites based on universal coverage and sustainable co-location arrangements,
- Content distribution, relationships with potential co-location and distribution operators, such as telecommunication providers and the Government NBH network.
- Set clear timetables for expansion and when analogue television is to be switched off. Will help to provide a clear path for site owners planning their capacity and for consumers to be well prepared for digital television.
- Set top box conformance to technical standards and compatibility with neighbouring countries, such as Australia and New Zealand.
- Affordability for consumers and public awareness.
- Relationships with other broadcast platform operators. Allows the digital model to be open for other non-television operators to join.



ROADMAP UPDATE

- Deployment:
 - 7 sites in Upolu
 - 3-4 sites in Savaii
- Have policies prepared, technical details and costs confirmed and building capacity of teams during 2015.
- Co-location policies important to develop.
- Formation of the common multiplex operator entity – mandated by MCIT.
- Goal to begin digital transmissions during 2015.
- After assessing digital take-up, begin planning ASO late 2016, likely to be in a single phase.

