Geneva, 11 May 2012

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| **Telecommunication Standardization Bureau** |  |
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| Ref:  Tel:  Fax: | **TSB Circular 283**  FG SmartCable/SP  +41 22 730 5858 +41 22 730 5853 | - To Administrations of Member States of the Union  - To ITU-T Sector Members;  - To ITU-T Associates;  - To ITU-T Academia |
| E-mail: | [tsbfgsmartcable@itu.int](mailto:tsbfgsmartcable@itu.int) | **Copy:**  - To the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of all ITU-T Study Groups;  - To the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau;  - To the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau |

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| Subject: | **Creation of a new Focus Group on Smart Cable Television (FG SmartCable);**  **First meeting of the FG SmartCable, Geneva, Switzerland, 19 – 21 June 2012** |

Dear Sir/Madam,

1 I am pleased to announce the establishment of the ITU-T Focus Group on Smart Cable Television (FG SmartCable) by SG 9 plenary session held on 4 May 2012.

2 The evolution of Information and Communication Technology is catalyzing many innovations for television service-provided experiences over cable networks. There are a number of new possibilities: advanced capabilities such as personal video communication; telepresence over cable; vertical applications and services; interactive home environment control/monitoring; etc., as well as enhancements of the broadcasting technology itself such as ultra high-definition television, advanced 3D television, free-viewpoint television, etc.

The primary aim of this Focus Group is to assist the future development of globally unique ITU-T Recommendations on “Smart Cable Television”, leveraging the combination of burgeoning technologies and improvements to existing technologies.

Deliverables include a gap analysis of the cable-broadband standards landscape based on existing activities and expertise, and a roadmap to guide development of relevant ITU-T Recommendations within Study Group 9’s charter.

3 The Focus Group will operate under procedures set out in Recommendation ITU-T A.7. ITU-T Study Group 9 serves as the parent group. The agreed Terms of Reference of FG SmartCable are reproduced in **Annex 1**. Mr Thomas C. Russell, Society of Cable Telecommunications Engineers (SCTE), is the Chairman of the Focus Group. Mr Satoshi Miyaji (KDDI Corporation) and Mr Gale Lightfoot (Cisco Systems) are appointed Vice-Chairmen. The Focus Group could appoint additional members of the management team. I strongly believe that by establishing the Focus Group, ITU-T will meet the expectations of its membership and demonstrate its ability to address the topics requiring urgent attention.

4 According to Recommendation ITU-T A.7, FG SmartCable is open to ITU Member States, Sector Member, Associates and Academic Institutions and to any individual from a country which is a member of ITU and who is willing to contribute to the work; this includes individuals who are also members or representatives of interested standards development organizations.

5 The first meeting of the FG SmartCable is scheduled to take place for 2.5 days at the ITU Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, on **19 – 21 June 2012**.

6 Remote participation will be available for the meeting. A mailing list is also available for subscription. More information about email list and remote participation are or will be available on the Focus Group web page: <http://itu.int/en/ITU-T/focusgroups/smartcable/>.

7 Information related to the meeting, a draft agenda, as well as the contributions submitted for discussion at the meeting will be made available from the Focus Group web page on a dedicated FTP area: <http://ifa.itu.int/t/fg/smartcable/>.

The meeting will open at 0930 hours on 19 June 2012 and will close on 21 June 2012 at 1230 hours. Participant registration will begin at 0830 hours at the Montbrillant entrance. Detailed information concerning the meeting room will be displayed on screens at the entrances to ITU headquarters. No registration fee is required for participating in this meeting.

The discussions will be held in English only. Please note that this is a paperless meeting.

The documents will be made publicly available for this meeting. In preparing documents, please use the [basic template](http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/focusgroups/smartcable/Pages/default.aspx) for the FG documents available from the Focus Group on Smart Cable Television web page. Participants shall submit input documents to FG SmartCable in electronic format to TSB by sending it as email attachment to the TSB Secretariat at [tsbfgsmartcable@itu.int](mailto:tsbfgsmartcable@itu.int).

In agreement with the Focus Group management, the deadline for document submission for this first meeting is **11 June 2012**.

8 Wireless LAN facilities are available for use by delegates in the ITU main conference room areas and in the CICG (Geneva International Conference Centre) building. Wired network access continues to be available in the ITU Montbrillant building. Detailed information is available on the ITU-T website (<http://itu.int/ITU-T/edh/faqs-support.html>).

9 For your convenience, a hotel confirmation form is enclosed as **Annex 2**   
(see <http://itu.int/travel/> for the list of hotels).

10 To enable TSB to make the necessary arrangements concerning the organization of the Focus Group meeting, I should be grateful if you would register via the on-line form at <http://www.itu.int/reg/tsg/3000409> as soon as possible, but **not later than 4 June 2012*.*** **Please note that pre-registration of participants to the meeting is carried out exclusively *online.*** Please consult the FG SmartCable webpage regularly <http://itu.int/en/ITU-T/focusgroups/smartcable> for updates concerning the meeting planning.

11 We would remind you that citizens of some countries are required to obtain a visa in order to enter and spend any time in Switzerland. **The visa must be requested at least four (4) weeks before the date of beginning of the meeting** and obtained from the office (embassy or consulate) representing Switzerland in your country or, if there is no such office in your country, from the one that is closest to the country of departure.

If problems are encountered by **ITU Member States, Sector Members, Associates or Academic Institutions** and at the official request made by them to TSB, the Union can approach the competent Swiss authorities in order to facilitate delivery of the visa but only within the period mentioned of four weeks. Any such request should be made by official letter from the administration or entity you represent. This letter must specify the name and functions, date of birth, number, dates of issue and expiry of passport of the individual(s) for whom the visa(s) is/are requested and be accompanied by a copy of the notification of confirmation of registration approved for the ITU-T meeting in question, and must be sent to TSB by fax (+41 22 730 5853) or e-mail ([tsbreg@itu.int](mailto:tsbreg@itu.int)), bearing the words **“visa request”**. **Please also note that ITU can assist only representatives of ITU Member States, ITU Sector Members, ITU Associates or Academic Institutions.**

Yours faithfully,

Malcolm Johnson  
Director of the Telecommunication  
Standardization Bureau

**Annexes**: 2

ANNEX 1  
(to TSB Circular 283)

**Terms of Reference**

**ITU-T Focus Group on “Smart Cable Television” (FG SmartCable)**

# Scope

The Focus Group (FG), established in accordance with Recommendation ITU-T A.7 and under the auspices and charter of Study Group 9, aims to

* familiarize ITU-T with emerging attributes of “smart cable television,” i.e., advanced services and technologies for cable networks;
* identify potential impacts on standards development;
* investigate potential new ITU-T study items and related actions, and
* encourage collaboration between ITU-T and cable television-related communities;

The Focus Group should collaborate with other SDOs and other cable television-related communities (e.g., research institutes, forums and consortia, and academia).

# Rationale

The evolution of Information and Communication Technology produces innovation for television service-provided experiences. There are a number of new possibilities: advanced capabilities such as personal video communication; telepresence; vertical applications and services; interactive home environment control/monitoring; as well as enhancements of the broadcasting technology itself such as ultra high-definition television, advanced 3D television, and free-viewpoint television, etc.

In addition, there are many emerging key component technologies for cable television such as very high-efficiency modulation methods being developed in some regions.

The primary aim of this Focus Group is to assist development of globally unique future ITU-T Recommendations on “Smart Cable Television”, taking advantage of the combination of aforementioned technologies with some possible improvements to existing deployed technologies.

The Focus Group should carry out a gap analysis and should produce deliverables based on the existing activities and expertise, but not to duplicate other efforts. The Focus Group should interact with the various research activities within ITU-T and other standardization communities with the emerging attributes of Smart Cable Television.

# FG objective

The objective of the Focus Group is to collect and analyze the information from the existing relevant activities. The Focus Group is also intended to produce deliverables that would assist the developing work on future Recommendations to support Smart Cable Television including requirements, use cases, possible technical methods, etc.

To achieve this objective, the Focus Group should:

* develop a living list of standards bodies, forums, and consortia dealing with Smart Cable Television-related technologies
* collect visions and value propositions for Smart Cable Television
* provide terminology and taxonomy necessary to support Smart Cable Television
* identify use cases of Smart Cable Television
* analyze cable television system requirements and capabilities to support Smart Cable Television
* gather new ideas relevant to and identify potential study areas to support Smart Cable Television
* suggest future ITU-T study items and related actions
* identify potential impacts on standards development as it relates to cable television networks, e.g., for
* gaps of standards for cable television networking and equipment to support Smart Cable Television
* adaptation of advanced capabilities to integrated broadband cable networks including personal video communication and telepresence, vertical applications and services, interactive home environment control/monitoring, etc.
* enhancements to current television services including Integrated Broadcast and Broadband (IBB) TV, ultra high-definition TV, multi-viewpoint TV, free-viewpoint TV, three-dimensional (3D) TV, etc.
* support for multiple types of terminal devices and device integration for integrated broadband cable networks
* application platforms and frameworks
* user interface and user experience
* transport network technology for integrated broadband cable networks, e.g., HFC, RFoG, PON-based cable television networks
* modulation technology for integrated broadband cable networks
* content creation and authoring
* security and privacy for integrated broadband cable networks, e.g., digital rights management
* gateway devices for integrated broadband cable networks
* home networking technologies utilizing integrated broadband cable networks
* cloud technologies as applicable to cable networks, e.g., TV application store and/or TV application repository, remote storage DVR, etc.
* adaptation of M2M/IoT to integrated broadband cable networks
* energy management as applicable to cable networks
* support for emergency warning and disaster relief for integrated broadband cable networks
* adaptation of mitigation techniques of radio signal interference and disturbance to cable networks
* interoperability
* accessibility and human factors for smart cable television

# Relations within and outside ITU-T

The Focus Group should work in close collaboration with all ITU-T study groups (e.g., through collocated meetings, see clause 11), for instance on the coordination of respective work programmes in order to avoid duplication and overlap of work,

The following ITU-T Study Groups have particular relevance to this Focus Group:

* SG 5 on Radio signal interference and disturbance
* SG 11 on M2M/IoT
* SG 13 on service delivery platforms
* SG 15 on transport and modulation technology and home networking
* SG 16 on video coding, IPTV applications and accessibility
* SG 17 on security and privacy

The Focus Group should also cooperate and share its work with the other ITU sectors (ITU-R, ITU‑D), and with other relevant bodies outside ITU-T (universities, research institutes, SDOs, forums/consortia, regulators, policy-makers) in accordance with Recommendation ITU-T A.7- via reports and memoranda.

Special attention should be paid to collaboration with SDOs (in particular ISO, IEC, ISO/IEC JTC1, SCTE, IEEE, 3D@Home, ETSI, W3C).

* Particular relevance for this Focus Group includes next generation access technology development projects developed within CableLabs, ETSI, DVB, and ETRI to name a few prominent organizations involved with the advanced cable television transmission technologies

# Specific tasks and deliverables

* A living list of standards bodies, forums, and consortia dealing with smart cable television-related technologies, including information concerning their activities and documents in the context of Smart Cable Television standards framework
* Collect and summarize vision and value propositions of Smart Cable Television
* Terminology and taxonomy
* Gap analysis of existing standards for cable television systems to support Smart Cable Television
* Analysis of cable television system requirements and capabilities to support Smart Cable Television
* Use cases of services and reference models for cable television systems to support Smart Cable Television
* Roadmap to guide further developments of relevant ITU-T Recommendations

# Parent group

The parent group is Study Group 9.

# Leadership

See clause 2.3 of Recommendation ITU-T A.7.

Chairman:

* Thomas C. Russell (Society of Cable Telecommunications Engineers)

Vice-Chairmen:

* Satoshi Miyaji (KDDI Corporation)
* Gale Lightfoot (Cisco Systems)

# Participation

See clause 3 of Recommendation ITU-T A.7. A list of participants will be maintained for reference purposes and reported to the parent group.

# Administrative support

See clause 5 of Recommendation ITU-T A.7.

# General financing of the FG

See clauses 4 and 10.2 of Recommendation ITU-T A.7.

# Meetings

The frequency and location of meetings will be determined by the Focus Group and the overall meetings plan should be announced as soon as possible. The Focus Group should use remote collaboration tools to the maximum extent, and collocation with existing meetings (e.g, study groups and research activities). The meetings will be announced by electronic means (e.g., e-mail and website, etc.) at least 4 weeks in advance.

# Technical Contributions

Technical contributions are to be submitted at least 1 week before the meeting takes place.

# Working language

The working language will be English.

# Approval of deliverables

Approval of deliverables will be taken by consensus.

# Working guidelines

Working procedures will follow the procedures of Rapporteur meetings. See <http://www.itu.int/oth/T0A0F000006/en> .

No additional working guidelines are defined.

# Progress reports

# See clause 11 of Recommendation ITU-T A.7.

# Announcement of Focus Group formation

The formation of the Focus Group will be announced by SG 9 via ITU publications and other means, including communication with the other organizations and/or experts, technical journals and the World Wide Web.

# Milestones and duration of the FG

The Focus Group lifetime is one year from the inaugural meeting.

The following milestones are proposed:

* Holding the inaugural Focus Group meeting (19 – 21 June 2012); Location: ITU in Geneva.
* Presentation of the first draft of the deliverables as identified in clause 5 at the SG 9 meeting in 14 – 18 January 2013

# Patent policy

See clause 9 of Recommendation ITU-T A.7.

ANNEX 2  
(To TSB Circular 283)

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| *This confirmation form* ***should be sent direct to the hotel*** *of your choice* |

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|  | **INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION** |  |

**TELECOMMUNICATION STANDARDIZATION SECTOR**

*Focus Group on Smart Cable Television---------------------- from ------------------------- to ---------------------*

*Confirmation of the reservation made on (date) ------------------------- with (hotel) -------------------------------*

***at the ITU preferential tariff***

*------------ single/double room(s)*

*arriving on (date) --------------------------- at (time) ------------- departing on (date) -------------------------------*

***GENEVA TRANSPORT CARD:*** *Hotels and residences in the canton of Geneva now provide a free "Geneva Transport Card" valid for the duration of the stay. This card will give you free access to Geneva public transport, including buses, trams, boats and trains as far as Versoix and the airport.*

*Family name* -----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

*First name*  ----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

*Address*  ------------------------------------------------------------------------ *Tel: -----------------------------*

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*----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------- E-mail:* ----------------------------

*Credit card to guarantee this reservation*: AX/VISA/DINERS/EC (*or* *other) ---------------------------------*

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*Date* ------------------------------------------------------ *Signature*  -------------------------------------------------

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