

DIGITAL INTEROPERABILITY FORUM WELCOMES DG ENERGY SUPPORT FOR THE VOLUNTARY AGREEMENT ON ENERGY EFFICIENCY OF CSTBs

The Digital Interoperability Forum (DIF) welcomes the confirmation from Philip Lowe, Director General in DG Energy, that the Voluntary Agreement (VA) for Further Improving the Energy Efficiency of Complex Set Top Boxes (CSTBs) is a viable policy option under the Eco-Design on the Energy Related Products Directive and it is intended to recognise it officially soon.

DIF led the development of the VA which has attracted widespread support well beyond DIF's membership. Supporters of the VA account for over 80% of the Complex STB market. Uniquely the VA is supported by stakeholders of all parts of the STB value chain: hardware manufacturers, software and middleware vendors, silicon companies and platform operators. This inclusive approach ensures that all actors take the requirements of the VA into account when designing products and solutions.

Jim Beveridge, Chair of DIF, said "I am delighted that DIF has been able to develop this innovative approach to regulating for further improvements in energy efficiency. The VA demonstrates that even with over 40 players who compete with each other self-regulation can work."

The VA is run by a Steering Committee chaired by David Daniels of BSkyB, a founding member of DIF. David Daniels said "The letter from Philip Lowe is a great endorsement of our work to date and confirmation that the VA is acceptable as the means of regulating energy efficiency for CSTBs. The industry has already demonstrated its commitment to the VA by implementing the Tier 1 obligations and is now working to agree Tier 2." The search to recruit an Independent Inspector for the VA has started and the tender document can be found at www.difgroup.eu.

Notes to Editors

1. The Digital Interoperability Forum is a pan-European trade association with representing companies involved in the value chain for the delivery of paid-for content on EU technology policy issues. Its members are BSkyB, Deutsche Telekom, Groupe Canal+, Irdeto, Liberty Global, Microsoft, Nagravision, NDS, Pace, Sky Deutschland, Qualcomm, Sky Italia, Viaccess and ZetaCast.
2. The Eco-Design of Energy Using Products Directive (now Energy Related Products) (Directive2009/125/EC) gives priority to self-regulatory approaches which have to comply with the principles of Annex VIII.
3. Complex STBs are boxes including conditional access.
4. The Voluntary Agreement and details of signatories are at <http://www.difgroup.eu/uploads/DocsAndMediaManager/documents/Latest%20VA%20CSTB%20signatories%20%E2%80%93%202022%20December%202009.pdf>