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Department:
Communications
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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BROADCASTING DIGITAL MIGRATION POLICY

JOINT PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE: COMMUNICATIONS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND POSTAL SERVICES

10 MARCH 2015



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INTRODUCTION

- Introduction
- Background
- Protecting STBS for free to air broadcasting
- Key role players
- Key Milestones and Status
- Outstanding matters





INTRODUCTION

- On 02 December 2014 a second proclamation on the transfer of administration of and powers and functions entrusted by the legislation to certain Cabinet members in terms of section 97 of the constitution was gazetted.
- The Proclamation allocated responsibilities to the Minister of Communications (MOC) and Minister of Telecommunications and Postal Services (MOTPS) with respect to certain sections of:
 - Independent Communications Authority of South Africa (ICASA) (Act No. 13 of 2000); and
 - Electronic Communications Act (ECA) (Act No. 36 of 2005).



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INTRODUCTION (cont.....2)

- The MOC and MOTPS signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the Implementation of certain matters relating to the transfer of powers and functions under the ICASA Act and ECA Act.
- Formal handover of the projects to be managed by the Department of Communications (DOC) from DTPS was done on 30 January 2015.
- Following this formal handover, the DOC submitted a memorandum to Cabinet in February 2015 regarding the final amendments to the Broadcasting Digital Migration Policy.



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BACKGROUND

- ❑ Analogue terrestrial television was first introduced in South Africa in 1976.
- ❑ Currently almost all televisions in South Africa can only receive analogue terrestrial broadcasting signal.
- ❑ The main focus for the current Digital Migration Programme is to address the population that still rely on the old free-to-air analogue system.
- ❑ Broadcasting Digital Migration (BDM) is the conversion of the old analogue television to digital television.



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BACKGROUND (Cont....2)

- ❑ Countries in Region 1 should migrate broadcasting services from analogue to digital by 17 June 2015 as per ITU agreement.
- ❑ Beyond 17 June 2015 analogue signals will not be protected against interference.
- ❑ Broadcasting digital migration is intended “to clear broadcasters from the radio frequency spectrum to enable the provision of mobile broadband services”.



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BACKGROUND (Cont.. 3)

- ❑ With the migration to digital, STBs (or decoders) will be required to convert the incoming digital broadcast signal to a format that the existing televisions can display.
- ❑ All television owning households that rely on the old analogue systems will require decoders to receive digital television.



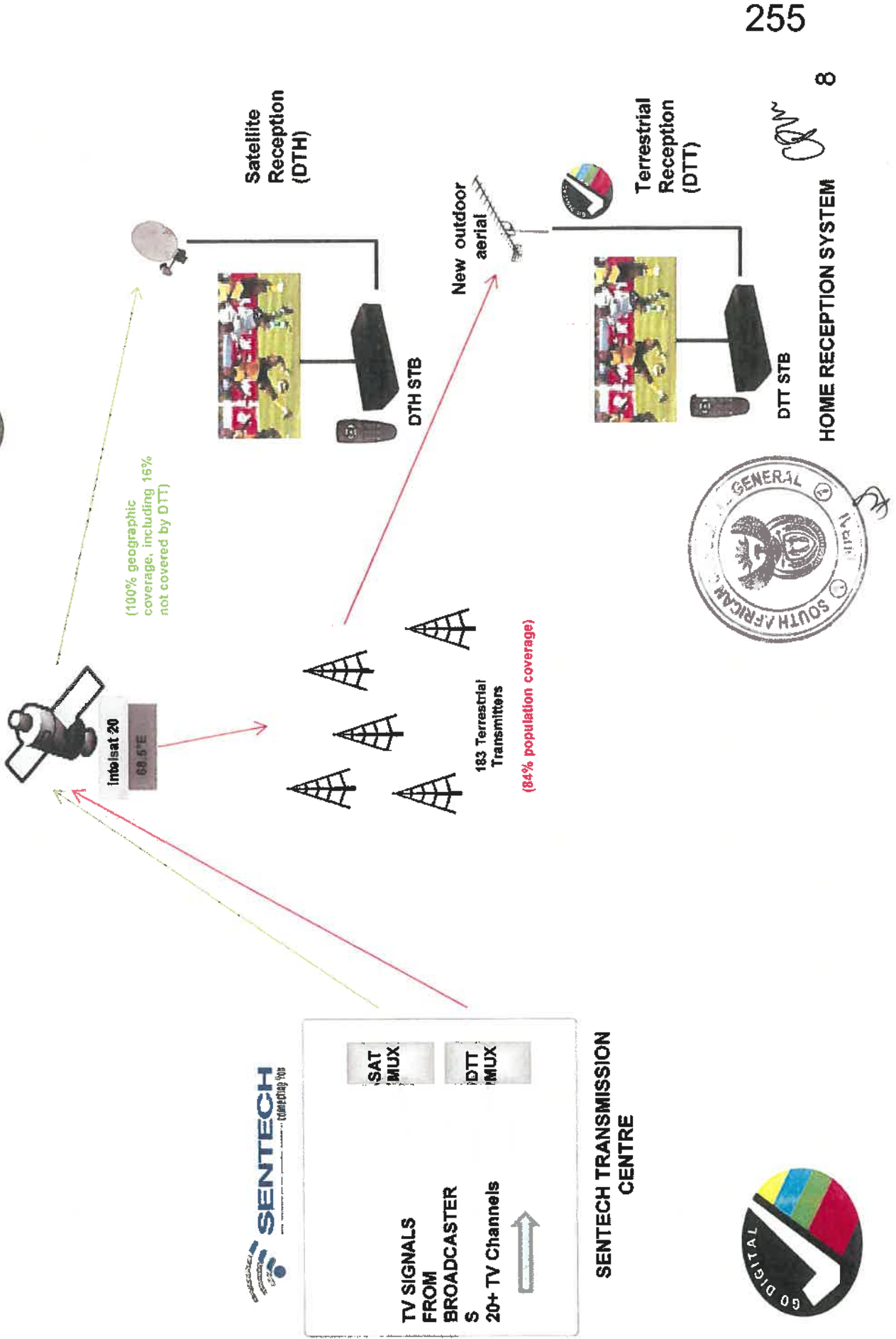
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BACKGROUND: TYPICAL DIGITAL TV SYSTEM (Cont....4)



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BACKGROUND (Cont....5)

- In August 2008 Cabinet approved the BDM Policy.
- The BDM Policy was amended in February 2012.
- In September 2012, e.tv took government to court disputing the right of the Minister of Communications to appoint SENTECH to manage the network control system.
- The court ruled in favour of e.tv that the management of the control system should be decided upon by the free to air broadcasters.





BACKGROUND (Cont....6)

- On 04 December 2013, Cabinet approved the proposed amendments to the BDM policy that:-
 - the use of set-top-box control by broadcasters will be non-mandatory and specifying 1 April 2014 as the commencement date for digital television signal; and
 - the Ministers of Communications and Finance to meet and agree on an appropriate STB subsidy model.
- On 06 December 2013, the approved amendments to the Policy were gazetted for public comments.



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BACKGROUND (Cont....7)

- On 4 March 2015 Cabinet approved that:
 - BDM Amendment Policy with the inclusion of the control system in the Set Top Box (STB), which will be clearly defined when the policy is published;
 - to commence and expedite the process of digital migration, government will provide free STBs to the five (5) million poor TV-owning households in South Africa, with priority given to the border region areas of the country; and
 - digital signal switch-on and analogue signal switch-off dates will be determined by the Minister in consultation with Cabinet.



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PROTECTING SIBS FOR FREE TO AIR BROADCASTING



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- For the purposes of implementing DTT in SA the following has been agreed:-
 - STBs are a transitional tool to enable migration from analogue to digital television;
 - control system does not mean a conditional access system nor does it mean an encryption of the signal to control access to content by viewers;
 - control system refers to a security feature to encourage local electronic manufacturing sector;



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PROTECTING STBs FROM FREE TO AIR BROADCASTING (Cont....2)



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- the STB must have minimal switching (on/off) security features to protect the subsidized STBs from theft or leaving SA borders; and
- must have capabilities to enable the provision of government information and services.
- No changes required to the SANS 862 standard.



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KEY ROLE PLAYERS



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OTHER ROLE PLAYERS

- Other Government Departments (all 3 spheres)
- Manufacturers / Industry
- Retailers
- Consumers



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HIGH-LEVEL MILESTONES AND STATUS

MILESTONES	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY	STATUS UPDATE
Finalise BDM policy amendments	DOC	Done.
DTT Regulations	ICASA	Done.
DTT standard and receiver specifications	SABS	Done.
Digital Terrestrial Network Rollout	SENTECH	DTT network rollout completed. 84%
DTT Satellite Transmission Network	SENTECH	DTT Satellite Transmission Network completed



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KEY MILESTONES AND STATUS UPDATE (Cont.....2)

MILESTONES	RESPON SIBLE ENTITY	STATUS
DTT Governance Structure	Project DOC	<p>DTT Programme Management Office established and capacitated. Headed by Mr Solly Mokoetle.</p> <p>Detailed DTT Programme Implementation Plan developed</p> <p>Government/Industry Task Team established. It consists of SABC, eTV, M-Net, SACF, SENTECH, USAASA, SABS, SAPO, ACT-SA and ICASA.</p>



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KEY MILESTONES AND STATUS UPDATE (Cont....2)

MILESTONES	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY	STATUS
Public Awareness	DOC	<p>DTT Communications strategy developed.</p> <p>Public Awareness and Education Campaign Task Team (Communicators Forum) established and operational. It consists of SABC, eTV, Multi-choice, SACF, SENTECH, USAASA, SABS, SAPO, ACT-SA and ICASA.</p> <p>Integrated DTT Contact centre for to be finalised</p>



OUTSTANDING MATTERS



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MILESTONES	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY	TIMEFRAMES
Publish the final BDM Policy	DOC	Next week.
Announcement of the Performance Period	DOC	TBD in the next three weeks
DTT Chanel authorisation	DOC	To commence any time
Finalisation of DTH-SANS 1719 Standard	SABS	Currently being discussed in TC 74 Committee. Standard to be finalised 31 May 2015
SANS 10352 iDTV Standard	SABS	iDTV standard to be finalised on 30 November 2015

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OUTSTANDING MATTERS

MILESTONES	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY	TIMEFRAMES
Procurement of STBs	USAASA	USAASA to provide detailed presentation on this matter
STB Manufacturing and Distribution	USAASA SAPO	To be determined once the manufacturers are appointed
Analogue Switch Off date	DOC	To be announce 4-months after actual ASO





ROLE OF SOCS

- ❖ In light of the policy amendments approved by Cabinet, DoC has begun a process to engage the SOE's to review their implementation strategies to align with new policy direction.
- ❖ The policy defines their role in the following key areas of the implementation of Broadcasting Digital Migration Project

SOCS	KEY ROLE
SENTECH	A major signal distributor of analogue to digital – 84% ready
ICASA	To finalise and publish DTT regulations
SABC	National Public Broadcaster for universal service coverage – to provide a new offering of DTT channels
USAASA	To finalise the criteria for the funding of the 5 million subsidised set-top-boxes
SAPO	To review and finalise the logistics and distribution plans of STB



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