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DT picks Microsoft for internet TV service

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[Deutsche Telekom](#), Europe's biggest telecommunications group, has picked Microsoft's software to power its next generation IPTV (Internet Protocol TV) service due to launch initially in 10 German cities beginning in mid-year.

The German carrier plans to offer next-generation television services through its T-Online unit over its upgraded VDSL (very high bit-rate DSL) broadband network.

The network will support data rates up to 50Mbps (Megabits per second) – enough for up to four simultaneous high definition TV streams - together with other advanced TV services including the ability to interact with television programs for example to vote, access sports scores and league tables or participate in sweepstakes.

The Deutsche Telekom deal comes just two weeks after [Telecom Italia](#) also selected the software and represents another important endorsement for Microsoft following reports of deployment delays last year by Swisscom – delays that were blamed on the challenge of making the software work with new set-top boxes.

Since then several other carriers including Britain's [BT](#) have announced plans to roll out IPTV services based on [Microsoft's](#) software technology.

“The announcement with Deutsche Telekom, together with the announcement of Telecom Italia signifies the growing number of the world's largest and most innovative communications companies are committed to the business potential of IPTV services powered by Microsoft TV,” Microsoft said.

Although Microsoft is not revealing the value of the Deutsche Telekom contract, the US software giant said it represents the second biggest contract for the Microsoft TV IPTV Edition software following its agreement with AT&T.

The US telecommunications group is spending \$400m over the next 10 years on the Microsoft software for use in its Project LightSpeed IPTV deployment – part of AT&T's strategy to develop a 'triple play' bundled of voice, data and video services and compete directly with US cable TV groups.

So far 13 telecommunications groups have publicly announced plans to deploy video broadband services using the Microsoft TV IPTV Edition software including 10 carriers that have announced plans for commercial roll outs and three - Bell South, Bell Canada and Reliance Infocomm – that are undergoing trials.

Meanwhile BT announced that its IPTV service will be called BT Vision and will combine digital terrestrial TV with on-demand film, TV and music programming, as well as interactive services. BT Vision is due to launch in the autumn.

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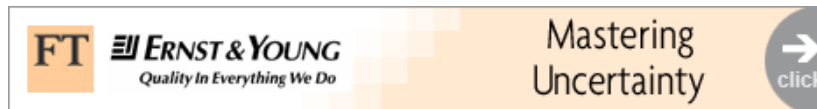
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