

EBU Recommendation R-110-2004
Subtitling for Digital Television Broadcasting

<i>EBU Committee</i>	<i>First Issued</i>	<i>Revised</i>	<i>Re-issued</i>
PMC & BMC	11.03.2004		

SUBTITLING ON DIGITAL TV SERVICES

Subtitling of television programmes is an important service for the deaf and hard-of-hearing. It is also used to provide foreign language translation.

Subtitling services on analogue television use Teletext*, which is available on almost all modern TV sets. The introduction of digital television offers the opportunity for enhanced subtitling services.

The DVB Project has specified two methods of transmitting subtitles for digital TV:

- **DVB Teletext** (EN 300 472) delivers subtitles via DVB bit-streams in a form that can be easily transcoded at the receiver and inserted into the Vertical Blanking Interval for display on TV sets capable of displaying Teletext;
- **DVB Subtitling** (EN 300 743) offers a more sophisticated and flexible set of features than Teletext subtitling, whilst also being efficient in terms of required bit rate.

Confusion has been caused by the fact that there are two independent methods of delivering subtitles on DVB services.

Some EBU Members have introduced services using DVB Subtitling because this can offer the best service to the public. However, some receiving equipment available in the market can interpret DVB Teletext, but cannot interpret DVB Subtitling. Users of such equipment are disappointed to find that they can receive no subtitles on digital TV when DVB Subtitling services are broadcast.

Given the benefits of DVB Subtitling, the EBU recommends that:

1. New digital television subtitle services operated by EBU Members and by other broadcasters should use the DVB Subtitling system (EN 300 743);
2. Consumer electronics manufacturers are requested to ensure the compliance of DVB set-top boxes and IRDs with the DVB Subtitling system.

* *EN 300 706 Enhanced Teletext specification*