

NDS And UEC Technologies Partner To Develop PVR And Cable DOCSIS Set Boxes

Highlights:

NDS' XTV Personal Video Recorder (PVR) technology to be integrated into UEC set-top box (STB) incorporating a hard disk drive to include NDS Open VideoGuard conditional access.

UEC low cost STB to be developed for use with DOCSI

NDS Group plc, a News Corporation company and UEC Technologies (Pty) Ltd today announced a partnership to develop two advanced digital set-top boxes (STB). The first will integrate NDS XTV PVR technology into UECs STB incorporating a hard disk drive and the second will have an integrated DOCSIS cable modem; both STB developments will incorporate NDS Open VideoGuard secure conditional access. With these advanced boxes, TV broadcasters and operators will be able to deliver new and innovative services to viewers.

NDS XTV PVR software gives operators a platform from which they can deliver video, encrypted and personalised in a single, secure digital set-top box equipped with a hard disk. Revenue is a key factor in content provision and XTV allows broadcast operators the opportunity to exploit more effectively content stored encrypted on the hard disk in the STB. For example, different Pay-Per-View and rental models may be offered, while viewers will have a greater choice of valuable content, stored on the disk.

Operators want to be able to choose low-priced set-top boxes that can run new innovative services, like PVR capabilities, in the most cost-effective manner, said Dr. Jas Saini, Vice President Consumer Devices, NDS Group plc. By integrating the technologies of NDS and UEC together, we can offer operators an interoperable and comprehensive solution that they can implement now, enabling them to begin deploying advanced interactive services immediately.

UECs focus is to provide STBs to operators that offer advanced functionality at excellent pricing. The combination of XTV with our latest generation PVR platform, will allow UEC to offer a range of exciting new features to operators broadcasting over cable or satellite networks, said Ian Harris, Marketing Manager, UEC Technologies. In order to meet the growing demand for broadband multimedia services, UEC has developed a second generation integrated DOCSIS STB that lowers the cost barriers for cable operators. This product combines the advantages of newly available silicon together with proven technologies and is highly suitable for NDS networks worldwide.

Over 27 million pay-TV subscribers worldwide use NDS conditional access, which has the power to drive down the cost of set-top boxes because of its open and flexible features. These features reduce the operators cost for set-top boxes because it allows them to choose from different STB manufacturers and middleware providers, rather than being locked into bundled offerings from proprietary vendors.

About NDS

NDS Group plc (NASDAQ/NASDAQ Europe: NNDS) is a leading supplier of open conditional access software and interactive systems for the secure delivery of entertainment and information to television set-top boxes and personal computers. The company also develops secure datacasting solutions for the distribution of data and multimedia. See <www.nds.com> for more information.

About UEC

UEC Technologies (Pty) Ltd is focused on the design, development, industrialisation and manufacture of compressed digital television and multimedia high-speed transfer products and software solutions for the high-end mass consumer global satellite, cable and terrestrial markets.

UEC is a wholly owned subsidiary of Altech, a leading South African high-technology group involved in telecommunications, multi-media and information technology. See www.uec.co.za for more information.

Cautionary Statement Concerning Forward-Looking Statements

The statements contained in this release which are not historical facts may constitute forward-looking statements within the meaning of the U.S. Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. These statements relate to the plans, projections or future performance of the companies referenced, which involve certain risks and uncertainties, including risk of market acceptance, the effect of economic conditions, possible regulatory changes, technological developments, the impact of competitive pricing and the ability of the companies and their commercial partners to develop systems and solutions which meet the needs of the broadcasting industry in a timely and cost-efficient manner, as well as certain other risks and uncertainties which are detailed in the companies' filings with the SEC. Company or product names have been used for identification purposes only and may be the trademarks or registered trademarks of their respective companies.