

FOR RELEASE

eventIS powers Freesat EPG

UK's new Freesat service features a highly-efficient, richly featured EPG using compressed schedule data according to DVB-SI standards

Eindhoven, The Netherlands, May 16, 2008 - eventIS has delivered the world's first implementation of an EPG (Electronic Programme Guide) metadata system to use compressed schedule data according to the signalling mechanism defined by the DVB-SI standard. Based on the widely used eventIS CASIS DVB-SI generation product, the system will deliver bandwidth savings of up to 50% compared to services using uncompressed metadata.

Highly flexible, the DVB-SI standard does not specify the compression algorithm to be used. Instead the system tests the incoming textual data and decides how best to compress the data from a choice of two schemes (optimised for the EPG data commonly found in the UK) or even leave it un-compressed.

The system will be used by Freesat, the new, free digital satellite TV service in the UK which provides over 80 channels of digital content – television, radio, interactive – plus high definition (HD) services from the BBC and ITV. The technical specification for the new service was developed by the BBC. eventIS worked with the BBC's R&I department in Kingswood Warren and with Siemens, the technology integrator and system provider, to implement the complete solution to meet the launch deadline for the new service.

The complete solution also uses eventIS' STAGIS and SPECTRIS (formerly System Monitor) products for schedule processing, storage and management, and for monitoring both system status and the accuracy of EPG information. As well as scheduled program changes, the system allows for real-time triggered changes to cater for more dynamic schedules, particularly important for accurate PVR recording. A web based schedule monitor allows operations staff and the individual schedule providers to view alarm and event logging data, allowing them to check the accuracy of schedule data and act quickly to resolve gaps in programmed schedules.

This solution allows Freesat to provide a range of powerful and consumer friendly EPG features. These include displaying the present, following and several subsequent programs at a glance on some EPGs, instead of the more typical 'now and next' programme information. Support is also given for broadcaster defined service genres allowing for EPG listings by programme type as well as having regional services sharing a common channel number. Support is provided for the signalling of interactive services that will form part of the Freesat service. And to support future PVR products planned for launch, a user-friendly PVR functionality is catered for by accurate recording of programmes and the recording of a whole series from a single button

"eventIS was able to provide a ready-to-launch solution that met our specific requirements on time and within budget," said Emma Scott, Managing Director, Freesat.

"We are proud to be involved in this project and look forward to its success in the market", said Erwin van Dommelen, CEO, eventIS. "We had to implement the Freesat solution within an agreed timeframe which was made possible by our close partnership with Siemens, the technology services provider to the BBC."

eventIS products in the Freesat system

CASIS

Centred on DVB-SI and MPEG-PSI table generation, the high-performance CASIS (Conditional Access and Service Information Scheduler) makes it easy for operators to implement DTV and maintain scheduled services with rich and accurate data. The highly flexible, modular and efficient nature of the CASIS solution is suited from the smallest operator to the largest with the most complex of requirements. As well its suitability for Free-to-Air services, it facilitates Pay-per-View business models, without heavy investments in traffic or automation systems, and is ideal for subscription models involving frequent changes to channel characteristics.

STAGIS

A high performance and modular schedule processor, management and distribution system that aggregates and publishes EPG data and performs consistency checks in a variety of formats. Data is collected from schedule and trigger information sources from all the different providers, in a variety of formats. The solution supports standard server hardware, with common IT backup and restore procedures, reducing complexity and cost.

SPECTRIS

An operation watchdog and service manager, SPECTRIS System Monitor (previously known as System Monitor) monitors the health and status of applications such as CASIS, STAGIS, PRODIS and TRAXIS, network components including QAMs and video servers for VOD platforms, and all the metadata processed by the system. A scalable modular design, it offers user-friendly and direct access to real-time system status, helping reduce customer support time and effort.

About eventIS

eventIS is making TV personal. Founded in 2002 and headquartered in the Netherlands, eventIS is a key independent provider of operator-friendly, broadcast-quality content promotion solutions to leading operators. Our multi-platform range of integrated, open standard tools is helping to drive business growth through schedule management, EPG and VOD catalogue generation, transaction management and service assurance systems. News from eventIS is located at www.eventIS.eu

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