

# ACTO1

local public service television directory

**Volume 4 SCOTLAND'S PUBLIC  
SERVICE SPECTRUM One further  
paper from the Forum held at the  
Scottish Parliament on 14th February  
2007**

**1 Scottish Enterprise Dumfries and  
Galloway: Wireless Broadband  
Update**

David Byers & Karen McLeod

**ACTO** is an advisory committee of local television organisations working alongside the Institute of Local Television. **ACTO**'s initial objective is to share information supporting the introduction of local digital terrestrial television as an independent form of local public service broadcasting.

**ACTO** was established in 2003 by local television members of the Community Media Association to focus on the introduction of local digital terrestrial television services - or 'local DTT'.

Through the Institute of Local Television **ACTO** is represented on **Open Channels for Europe!** the organisation representing European local and open channels in exchanging information on European practice and in negotiation with the European parliament on small-scale TV provision.

Personal and institutional affiliation to **ACTO** is by a small annual subscription (see page 4) entitling subscribers to copies of Institute of Local Television research and reports as well as to **ACTO** directories. Subscribers also receive early announcement of local TV conferences, forums, workshops and are offered networking and support with submissions to regulators and government as well as encouragement with local-tv related activities.

**ACTO - local public service television directory** - encourages local lines of research and documentation and promotes publications which support a wide public engagement with small-scale local TV.

This is the thirty first edition of the **ACTO - local public service television directory**.

**ACTO back issues can be downloaded from [www.maccess.org.uk/members/ilt.html](http://www.maccess.org.uk/members/ilt.html)**

## **WEBSITES**

### **For information:**

on local and community TV in Europe: **[www.obs.int/db/persky/eu.html](http://www.obs.int/db/persky/eu.html)**

on community TV channels worldwide: **[www.openchannel.se/](http://www.openchannel.se/)**

UK's Community Media Association: **[www.commedia.org.uk/](http://www.commedia.org.uk/)**

UK examples of local and community TV programmes:

**[www.showcase.commedia.org.uk/](http://www.showcase.commedia.org.uk/)**

website of NvTv Belfast's Local TV Channel: **[www.nvttv.co.uk](http://www.nvttv.co.uk)**

Public Voice is the leading voluntary sector coalition campaigning for citizens' interests in communications policy and regulation:

**[www.politics.co.uk/campaignsite/public-voice-\\$3436683.htm](http://www.politics.co.uk/campaignsite/public-voice-$3436683.htm)**

Ofcom - the UK's independent regulator and competition authority - site includes sections on codes, guidelines and consultations: **[www.ofcom.org.uk/](http://www.ofcom.org.uk/)**

..... provides an extensive catalogue of consultations and reports - for background to local TV look out the public service broadcasting consultations Phase 1-3 and you can join the Ofcom email list for updates on future consultations and publications

inter-ACT!#5 media activism in South Korea. You can subscribe to this regular

English language newsletter at **<http://lists.riseup.net/www/info/inter-act>**

Institute of Local Television **[www.localtvonline.com/](http://www.localtvonline.com/)** .... shared with The Broadcasting Trust, website lists publications, provides background papers, illustrates local TV DVDs, 2.4 Ghz TV studies ....

Ofcom's spectrum dividend review consultation

**[http://www.ofcom.org.uk/media/news/2005/11/nr\\_20051117](http://www.ofcom.org.uk/media/news/2005/11/nr_20051117)**

# Scottish Enterprise Dumfries and Galloway: Wireless Broadband Update

David Byers & Karen McLeod

Scottish Enterprise Dumfries and Galloway established the telecoms strategy in 2003 with the initial aim of increasing broadband availability within the region. The initial onset of exchange upgrade was slow and focused on the denser population areas of the region leaving vast gaps in coverage for the majority of the population. Wireless technology appeared to offer the only solution in establishing connection for remote areas and as such wireless community networks were established to provide services and speeds that were in keeping with the ADSL coverage being offered elsewhere.

These wireless networks formed the basis of first generation service within the region and proved reliable even on a satellite backhaul link. The networks have managed to retain customer loyalty, proven to be commercially viable and offer better performance and quality of service than ADSL in the deployment areas.

Even given the accelerated broadband rollout the digital divide is still apparent in Dumfries and Galloway and while first generation ADSL broadband service is now fairly ubiquitously available there are still areas of the region which are restricted to a 1Mbps connection. In relation to the 2-8Mbps being offered in urban areas and the proposed ADSL 2+ services which will offer up to 20Mbps the digital divide between D&G and urban areas is wider now than when the campaign to acquire first generation services was started.

Wireless technology capabilities continue to progress and the predominant local supplier has made significant contribution in progressively updating their networks to enhance the service offering. The latest wireless equipment is capable of data transfer speeds equal to and in excess of even ADSL 2+ services and offers data security levels consistent with military standards.

With the increased availability of first generation broadband services the market is now moving increasingly towards convergence of services which with dis-economies of scale developments in rural and low population areas will leave rural communities lagging behind the market developments in urban areas.

A range of different companies have successfully demonstrated the use of wired (fibre backed) IP networks to deliver combined broadcast television, video on demand, internet access, and PC emulation to the home user TV set.

Replication of these benefits in rural Dumfries and Galloway (or other rural areas) would not be achievable with reliance on a fibre and wired network as the distribution system. The cost of infrastructure installation is simply prohibitive.

SEDG has however given consideration to the demonstrated commercial viability of the first generation community wireless solutions within the region to explore the prospect of an alternative wireless network architecture which could address the new digital divide.

A Pilot has been undertaken to:

- Relay broadcast TV channels and locally served video on demand
- Voice over IP
- Broadband internet access with e-mail access and open office application suite using home TV's as a thin client PC

The results of these initial trials have demonstrated that:

- Each of the component elements of the product set (TV, video, Voice, data) can be successfully and acceptably delivered over a wireless network
- Services can be supplied directly to home TV's which when supplemented with a set top box and a wireless keyboard eliminates the requirement for in home PC equipment helping to address social inclusion issues

However although this pilot has demonstrated the art of the possible in relation to the technology further research is required to assess the robustness of the network under load and stress conditions. SEDG is currently working with local authority and local NHS partners to explore ways of advancing this research.

**Sale of books/DVDs and your voluntary subscriptions of £30.00 per year help keep ACTO afloat. To support send cheques made out to Institute of Local Television marked ACTO on the back.**



To be removed from the ACTO electronic mailing list please advise [local.tv@virgin.net](mailto:local.tv@virgin.net)