



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q1. What changes in Television? Why switch from Analogue TV transmissions to Digital Terrestrial TV?

Ans.1 On July 1st 2011, Digital Terrestrial Television Broadcasting will replace Analogue transmissions using the same traditional way of reception, i.e. the outdoor antenna. Digital Terrestrial Television will enable the transmission of all the existing Free-to-Air (FTA) TV channels in digital form resulting in better picture and sound quality.

The Analogue Switch-Off- the termination of all Analogue Terrestrial TV Broadcasts- is scheduled to take place on the 1st of July, as part of the Cypriot government commitments as an EU Member State.

Q2. After the Analogue Switch-OFF, will I have to pay a subscription to watch FTA Terrestrial TV channels/programs?

Ans.2 NO, after the Switch-Off takes place, TV viewers will be able to watch FTA Terrestrial TV channels for FREE. (see also Ans12)

Q3. Is there a transitional period of time when the existing FTA TV channels will be broadcasted in analogue as well as in digital format?

Ans.3 YES, this is called the "Analogue Switch-Over period" and this ends on the 1st of July 2011 when the Analogue-Switch-Off is scheduled to occur.

Q4. Which are the Digital TV options available to viewers in Cyprus, and what is the difference between those and Digital Terrestrial TV?

Ans.4 Digital TV offerings can be found:

- i. in IPTV packages offered by Cyta (CytaVision) and Primetel (PrimeHome TV),
- ii. in Cable Packages offered by Cablenet (Cableview TV) and LTV (LTV3PLAY, LTVCable)
- iii. in Satellite Packages offered by Nova Cyprus

The main difference is that all the above offerings are offered on a monthly subscription basis.

Q5. Will TV viewers have to replace their old TV after the Analogue Switch Off occurs?

Ans.5 NO, it is not necessary to replace your old TV (e.g.CRT with a newer Plasma, LCD/LED TV that are available in the market today). The great majority of Television sets will require the connection of an external receiver/decoder to receive digital broadcasts.

Q6. Do I need to buy an external Set-Top-Box (STB) if I already have a Plasma/LED/LCD TV?

Ans.6 NO, if the TV has a built-in tuner that supports the MPEG-4 standard.

In order to verify whether your TV can be used for the reception of digital broadcasts, you just have to re-tune (digital channel installation) your TV in order to confirm that you receive digital TV channels.

After the re-tune process finishes, and provided that you can still not watch the digital TV programs (no picture on your screen although you might receive audio), there is a need to buy an external decoder in order to watch TV programs in digital.

(The majority of new TV models that can be found in the market are equipped with built-in DVB-T/ MPEG -4 tuner/decoders.)

Q7. What are the benefits of Digital Terrestrial broadcasts compared to analogue?

The main benefits of Digital broadcasts over Analogue are:

- Excellent picture and sound quality
- Use of the **Electronic Program Guide [EPG]** that provides the viewer with program information such as titles, start and finish times, program duration/ description, etc.
- Better signal reception (compared to analogue reception).

Q8. How many DTTV decoders do I need if I own more than one television?

Ans8. You need as many decoders as the number of TVs (that do not support MPEG-4 signal decoding) that you own, provided that you would like to watch different channels on each TV.

Alternatively, using one decoder, the output of the decoder can be distributed to any TV in the house, enabling viewers to watch the same channel on all the TVs.

Q9. Do I need to change my outdoor antenna in order to receive TV channels in digital?

Ans9. NO, digital channel reception will be possible using the existing antenna equipment provided that you are not currently faced with analogue reception problems.

Q10. What are the minimum Digital Terrestrial TV equipment technical specifications for Cyprus Digital Terrestrial TV broadcasts?

The minimum set of specifications to ensure equipment compatibility is defined by the Office of the Commissioner of Electronic Communications and Postal Regulation (OCECPR).

In its simplest form Digital Terrestrial TV STBs/TVs or any other reception/decoder equipment must support the DVB-T MPEG-4 standard.

Consumers are advised to seek clarification that any DTT equipment they want to buy is compliant/compatible with TV broadcasts in Cyprus and carry the CE mark.

Q11. Will TV viewers be able to watch Digital Terrestrial channels provided they take no action?

Ans11. No, they will not be able to watch Digital TV channels after the 1st July 2011 when the Analogue Switch-Off is scheduled to occur.

From the 1st July 2011 and onwards, viewers who own televisions that do not support the DVB-T MPEG-4 standard or viewers who haven't bought and connected to their TV an MPEG-4 external decoder will not be able to watch television programs at all.

Q12. Would it be possible to receive Pay-Tv services via the Digital Terrestrial platforms/networks?

Ans12. The commercially licensed DTT platform owned and operated by Velister Ltd can provide broadcast facilities for Pay-Tv channels, in addition to the Free-to-Air services that they primarily offer.

Q13. Would it be possible to broadcast TV channels in High Definition [HD]?

Ans13. Yes, the broadcasting standards set by the Office of the Commissioner of Electronic Communications and Postal Regulation, allow the broadcast of High Definition [HD] content by the DTT platforms.

Currently, programs in HD are broadcasted by the PIK HD (CyBC HD) channel.

Q14. Will viewers be able to watch programs in High Definition using an external DVB-T MPEG-4 compliant decoder?

Ans14. YES, but in order to watch High Definition programs, the decoder must support the DVB-T MPEG-4 HD profile.

Furthermore, TV owners should make sure that their TV can display HD (**1920 x 1080**) signals.

Q15. Which TV channels will viewers be able to watch in digital form?

Ans15. After the 1st of July 2011, viewers will be able to watch all previously analogue Free-to-Air channels.

For more information please contact CyBC or Velister Ltd. Information can also be found at www.dtv.org.cy.

Q16. Where do I have to direct my antenna in order to be able to receive all digital channels?

Ans16. At the present time, broadcasting locations for digital TV transmitters are the same as for the analogue networks.

You can find all relevant info at:

http://www.dtv.org.cy/media/documents/General/EC_Doc_SixnotitesPagkipriasEkpompisPsifiakon_Metadoseon_GR_06-04-2011_YD.pdf.

In case you need further clarifications, please contact Cybc and Velister Ltd.

Q17. What are the minimum Digital Terrestrial TV equipment technical specifications for Cyprus DTTV broadcasts? Is this information available to Electronic Equipment Importers/Distributors/Retailers?

Ans17. The minimum set of technical specifications to ensure equipment compatibility is defined by the Office of the Commissioner of Electronic Communications and Postal Regulation.

This information is available to all who wish to import/distribute DTTV equipment at the following address: http://www.dtv.org.cy/nqcontent.cfm?a_id=3367&tt=dtv&lang=gr.

Q18. How can viewers tune their TV to install/receive all digital channels?

Ans18. Viewers can tune their TV to receive digital channels using the guidelines found in its User Manual.

Alternatively, sales advisors at various retail stores should be able to provide before or after sales support.

Q19. Where can I buy DTT equipment and what is the market price range?

Ans19. DTT equipment can be bought from any high street electronic equipment store and also from online stores.

Decoders are available at different prices in the market, with the price varying according to the technical characteristics of the decoder and the additional features that it may support.

Indicatively, the price of a basic receiver/decoder for SD channels ranges from 50 to 60 Euros and the price of a decoder for HD channels ranges from 65-90 Euros.

Q20. How can I connect my TV with an external Digital Terrestrial TV decoder?

The Office of The Commissioner of Electronic Communications and Postal Regulation has published an Informational Leaflet presenting the basic steps on how to connect a TV with an external decoder.

The Informational Leaflet is available at the following link:
http://www.dtv.org.cy/nqcontent.cfm?a_id=3789&tt=dtv&lang=gr

Viewers should be aware that the information provided is a basic guide on how to connect the TV and DTTV decoder but the connection setup and the channel installation procedure can change dependent on the TV and/or external receiver/decoder brand/model.

Before connecting any equipment with their TV Viewers should read the respective equipment User manuals or seek advice from store sales personnel.

Q21. Do I need to connect an external DTT receiver/decoder if I own a Cathode Ray Tube TV (CRT)?

Ans21. YES. You need an external DTT receiver/decoder in order to receive digital channels. CRT TV sets come only with an analogue tuner.

Q22. I own a TV that displays the logos "FULL HD" or "HD READY". Do these logos indicate that my TV has a built-in tuner/decoder that can receive/decode HD signals?

Ans22. Not necessarily. The "FULL HD" or "HD Ready" logos found on any LCD/LED or Plasma TV indicate that the TV will display High Definition content/programming but might not have a built-in tuner/decoder capable of receiving HD signals via your terrestrial antenna.

TV owners are advised to consult the TV User Manual in order to verify that their TV supports the MPEG-4 HD profile.

Alternatively, you could try tuning to a digital channel frequency to verify if you can receive digital video and audio.

If there is no video displayed on the TV then an MPEG-4 external decoder should be connected to the TV.

Q23. I tried tuning my TV to a digital channel frequency but whereas I can listen to Audio I cannot watch any Video. What should I try next?

Ans23. If you cannot receive/watch Video signals then most likely your TV has a built-in tuner/decoder that supports the MPEG-2 signal decoding.

In order to be able to receive picture/video and sound/audio TV owners should connect an external MPEG-4 DTTV receiver/decoder.

Q24. What are the changes needed to the existing central TV distribution system in order to receive Digital Terrestrial Channels using a Communal Antenna system?

Before you proceed with any changes to the central antenna system you should:

- Verify that any TV built-in DTTV tuner/decoders or external decoders adhere to the minimum set of specifications (support the DVB-T MPEG-4 standard) for the reception of digital FTA channels.
- Tune all DTTV reception equipment in order to receive all digital TV channels.
- Take no further action provided that the equipment can install/receive all Free-to-Air Digital TV channels.
- Seek the advice and support of a specialized TV installation technician for any technical assistance needed.

Q25. Which are the licensed Digital Terrestrial Platforms broadcasting in Cyprus?

Ans26. Following a direct assignment and auction process in July 2010 in Cyprus there are two licensed DTT Platforms, CyBC and Velister Ltd that have undertaken the broadcast of TV programs in Digital form.

The following digital TV/radio Channels/Programs are currently broadcasted:

- **CyBC:** TV FTA Channels: CyBC1, CyBC2, ERT World, Euronews
- **CyBC:** RADIO Channels: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th CyBC Radio Programs.
- **Velister Ltd:** TV FTA Channels: MEGA TV, ANT1, SIGMA, PLUS TV, EXTRA TV and any other TV content provider licensed and choose to be transferred from this platform.

Q26. Are there any plans from the Cyprus Government to subsidize fully or partly the price of an external decoder?

Ans26. The Ministry of Finance of Cyprus taking into account the present financial conditions, the downward trend in the price of DVB-T MPEG-4 decoders as well as the non-obligation of the Cyprus Government to subsidize the purchase of DTT equipment, has taken the decision not to subsidize fully or partly the purchase of digital decoders for low-income households.

Q27. Is the DTV informational Leaflet available from any retail stores or the DTV website?

Ans27. The Digital TV Informational Leaflet is available in electronic form on the www.dtv.org.cy website as well as at the offices of OCECPR at the following address:

Helioupoleos 12,

1101 Nicosia,

Tel. No. +357- 22693000.

Furthermore, printed copies of the leaflet are available in major high street electronic equipment stores for e.g. Electroline, Stefanis, Bionic, Stefanidis and soon to other major retailers.

Q28. Will TV viewers be able to record DTTV programs after the ASO date?

Ans.28 TV viewers will still be able to record TV programs in Digital format provided they own a DVD-recorder or PVR with a built-in tuner/decoder that supports MPEG-4.

Existing DVD-recorders, PVRs or even VHS recorders can be used provided that they receive input from sources such as an external MPEG-4 decoder (SCART or RCA output interface) used to convert the digital signal into analogue.