

## FINLAND TO SWITCH OVER TO ALL-DIGITAL TELEVISION

Finland is changing to a new age of television. TV programmes have gradually started to be transmitted using the new digital technology. This means that viewers will need a new device in order to receive digital broadcasts.

Television transmissions will become all-digital on 31 August 2007. It is best to acquire the necessary device in good time before that date.

The Government considers it essential that the whole of Finland switches completely over to the new system. Technology cannot stay the same forever, and the new digital technology offers cheaper and more efficient ways of broadcasting. Finland's telephone networks have already been digitalised for a long time. Other countries in Europe are also moving over to digital television.

Digital TV offers high quality of picture and sound, and a wider selection of channels.

Digital broadcasts can be received by an ordinary TV fitted with a digital adaptor, known as a set-top box. This means that present TVs will still work, but only if a set-top box is attached to them.

Alternatively, it is possible to buy a new TV set with a built-in digital receiver. Of course it is much cheaper to buy a set-top box than a whole new television.

Every old analogue technology TV set will need its own individual set-top-box. So set-top-boxes will also be needed for TVs in holiday homes.

Many different models of set-top-boxes are available. Set-top boxes for receiving through aerials are different from those for cable TV reception.

Set-top boxes can be bought from home appliance shops and department stores. The sales staff will help you in choosing a suitable model. They can also be asked for help in finding a professional to install the device in the home.

### DIGI-TV CHECK LIST

#### Check at home:

- Do you live in a building with an aerial or do you have cable TV?  
*You can check this with your house manager, for example.*
- Does your TV set have a connector for a digital set-top box?  
*Most TV sets have a suitable connector, which is called a SCART connector. Some set-top boxes are able to use the ordinary terrestrial connector found in every TV set.*

#### Check before going to the appliances dealer:

- Do you want to have a set-top box connected to your present TV set, or do you want to buy a completely new digital TV set?
- Do you want to receive only the freeview channels which are available to everybody, or do you also want to view pay-TV programmes?  
*Viewing pay-TV programmes requires a set-top box with a programme card slot. Almost every set-top box model has such a slot.*
- Do you want to record other channels than the one you are watching?  
*Using a set-top box or a VHS recorder for recording a channel that is not being watched requires a set-top box with two tuners.*

#### Digital TV Information Team

Ministry of Transport and Communications, Finnish Communications Regulatory Authority, Finnish Broadcasting Company (YLE), MTV3, Nelonen, Digita, Finnish Cable Television Association

