

*Abstract: ADB and Thomson have signed a cross-licensing agreement allowing the shared use of set-top box patents.*

## **ADB AND THOMSON SIGN LICENSE AGREEMENT**

**Wednesday, September 21<sup>st</sup> 2005 – Geneva, Switzerland/Paris, France.** **Advanced Digital Broadcast - ADB** ([www.adbglobal.com](http://www.adbglobal.com)), a leading supplier of digital TV systems and software solutions for interactive television and **Thomson** ([www.Thomson.net](http://www.Thomson.net)), partner to the Media & Entertainment industries, today announced that they have concluded a cross-licensing agreement for digital set-top boxes (DSTB). Thomson is pleased to add ADB to its ever-growing list of licensed DSTB manufacturers. The agreement, covering all current and future patents gained by both individual companies (relating specifically to digital TV set-top box technologies), will broaden each company's product offering and has been signed for an initial period of 5 years.

"We are very pleased to have reached this agreement with Thomson, a company with one of the most significant patent portfolios in the digital television industry", says Philippe Lambinet, CEO of ADB. "From the beginning technical innovation has always been a key priority for ADB. We hold a rich patent portfolio which we are delighted to bring to this arrangement. This is the first time that ADB has licensed its intellectual property (IP) portfolio to a third party".

"Thomson has a very successful ongoing DSTB licensing program", says Alfred Chaouat, Vice President Intellectual Property and Licensing, Thomson. "We own key patents in the field of digital set-top boxes – a direct result of the important research and development activities undertaken by the group's worldwide laboratories". This is one of several programs that positions Thomson among the leading licensing companies in the world.

ADB considers the identification and protection of its Intellectual Property (IP) rights as one of the key elements contributing to its success and strong competitive position within the global digital TV market. In addition to having a dedicated IP department, the company plays host to a Corporate University, which is a valuable centre for innovation and provides a wealth of resources for research and development (R&D). ADB sees its rich portfolio of patents as recognition of the commitment and talent of its highly skilled engineering team. The company's engineering and technical capabilities extend to all elements necessary to develop world-leading digital TV products. A fundamental part of ADB's professional approach to licensing is the company's firm policy to acknowledge and remunerate partners fairly for the use of their intellectual property. Thomson will receive payments from ADB under this agreement and ADB is committed, in this case as with other patent holders, to help establish a fair market place where all participants, including ADB, receive fair compensation for their respective investments in R&D.

Thomson, considered one of the top patent and license portfolio owners worldwide, dedicates a major portion of its resources to the continuing development of technologies serving the Media and Entertainment industries. The group's history of innovation includes collaboration in the creation of technologies such as MPEG 2 Video, MP3, digital TV and digital Satellite, as well as optical technology (CD, DVD and the next generation of optical technologies). With 9 laboratories around the world, Thomson's commitment to R&D positions the Group firmly as a leader in the discovery and implementation of technologies that benefit all aspects of Media and Entertainment production, distribution and exhibition.

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### **About ADB**

Founded in 1995, Advanced Digital Broadcast ([www.adbglobal.com](http://www.adbglobal.com)) supplies a diverse range of high quality products and services to the digital broadcast and broadband markets world-wide. Since releasing its first unit in 1997 the company has deployed over 5 million set-top boxes across high-volume markets incorporating a wide range of middleware, conditional access and hardware configurations.

ADB, with headquarters in Switzerland, has facilities in Australia, Israel, Italy, Poland, Spain, Taiwan and the United States. The majority of ADB's staff are development engineers, creating products that are universally recognized as the industry's best, both for current and future generation technology.

ADB is a member of ADB Holdings ([www.adbholdings.com](http://www.adbholdings.com)), a company listed on the SWX Swiss exchange (SWX: ADBN).

### **About Thomson**

Thomson (Euronext Paris: 18453; NYSE: TMS) provides services, systems and technology to help its Media & Entertainment clients – content creators, content distributors and users of its technology – realize their business goals and optimize their performance in a rapidly changing technology environment. The Group is the preferred partner to the Media & Entertainment industries through its Technicolor, Grass Valley, RCA and Thomson brands. For more information: [www.thomson.net](http://www.thomson.net).