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Press release

digitaluk

NEW CHAIR FOR DIGITAL UK AS MERGER ANNOUNCED

Caroline Thomson, the BBC's former Chief Operating Officer, has been appointed the new chair of Digital UK.

Caroline, who represented the BBC on the Digital UK board from 2006-2012, will take up her post on 1 January, 2013. She will succeed Barry Cox who is retiring after seven years in the post.

January 2013 will also see Digital UK merge with DMOL, the company which runs the Freeview on-screen TV guide, it was announced today. The combined company will operate under the name Digital UK. It will provide day-to-day technical management of the Freeview Electronic Programme Guide (EPG), manage the launch of new channels onto the platform and allocate channel numbers. Digital UK will also continue its work on behalf of Government, co-ordinating changes to TV signals ahead of the roll-out of 4G mobile broadband services next year.

David Scott, Chief Executive of Digital UK, said: 'Caroline has been a huge supporter of Digital UK since the company was founded, so I am delighted she has now agreed to be our chair as we take on new challenges. I would also like to thank Barry Cox for the vital role he played in helping steward us through the successful delivery of television switchover.'

Caroline Thomson said: 'Barry Cox has been a brilliant chairman and I am honoured to have been asked to succeed him. Digital UK's talented team has a strong track record of delivering results and with switchover complete, working with the new board we can now address the strategic challenges of ensuring the free to air platform is well managed and that viewers are well served.'

Digital UK led the five-year switchover programme which completed on 24 October 2012, extending Freeview coverage to 98.5 per cent of UK homes. The company is now managing the clearance of TV signals from parts of the 800MHz band of spectrum, which will be used for 4G services.

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Digital UK is co-ordinating clearance of parts of the 800MHz band of spectrum for new services, including fourth-generation (4G) high-speed mobile broadband. The changes require some Freeview channels in parts of the UK to move to new frequencies. The project is being funded and carried out on behalf of Government. The company is owned by the BBC, ITV, Channel 4 and Arqiva.

DTT Multiplex Operators Limited (DMOL) is licensed by Ofcom as the programme guide provider for Freeview and manages the central technical functions of the Freeview platform.

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