



Broadcasting Public Notice CRTC 2004-61-3

Ottawa, 1 March 2005

Call for comments on a request by the CCTA for the addition of HD Net and Discovery HD Theater to the lists of satellite services eligible for digital distribution

Third extension of deadline for submission of comments

1. In *Call for comments on a request by the CCTA for the addition of HD Net and Discovery HD Theater to the lists of satellite services eligible for digital distribution – Second extension of deadline for submission of comments*, Broadcasting Public Notice CRTC 2004-61-2, 7 January 2005 (Public Notice 2004-61-2), the Commission extended the deadline for comments to 7 March 2005, to coincide with that specified in *Call for comments on a proposed framework for the licensing and distribution of high definition pay and specialty services – Second extension of deadline for submission of comments*, Broadcasting Public Notice CRTC 2004-58-2, 7 January 2005. The deadline for comments in that proceeding had been extended to coincide with the deadline for comments set out in *Determinations with respect to the establishment of rules to govern the distribution of specialty services on the basic service of fully digital cable undertakings; and call for proposals for a framework to guide the migration of pay and specialty services from analog to a digital distribution environment*, Broadcasting Public Notice CRTC 2005-1, 7 January 2005.
2. The Commission has received letters from Alliance Atlantis Communications Inc., Astral Media Inc., CHUM Limited, CTV Inc., Global Television Network Inc., Corus Entertainment Inc., and Rogers Communications Inc. seeking a further 90-day extension of the deadline for comments for these proceedings. The parties noted that a number of senior executives from major companies in the broadcast distribution and programming industries are discussing the development of a consensus, or, at a minimum, a narrowing of the issues raised in the above-noted public notices.
3. The Commission also received a letter from Shaw Communications Inc. (Shaw) opposing any further extensions to the deadline. Shaw expressed concern that any further delay in the Commission's consideration of these issues would put Shaw and other hybrid analog-digital cable operators at a regulatory and technological disadvantage to other digital broadcast distributors.

4. The Commission is of the view that the development of an industry-wide consensus would further the successful transition to digital distribution in a way that could best address the competing interests of the parties. At the same time, the Commission does not want to unduly delay its consideration of these matters. Accordingly, the Commission extends the deadline for comments with respect to Public Notice 2004-61 by 45 days to **21 April 2005**. The Canadian Cable Telecommunications Association may file written replies to any comments no later than **5 May 2005**.

Secretary General

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