



Broadcasting Decision CRTC 2005-519

Ottawa, 21 October 2005

2953285 Canada Inc.
Across Canada

Application 2005-0491-1
Public Hearing in the National Capital Region
15 August 2005

Discovery HD Theatre – Category 2 specialty service

*In this decision, the Commission **approves** an application for a broadcasting licence to operate a new Category 2 specialty programming undertaking.*

The application

1. The Commission received an application by 2953285 Canada Inc. for a broadcasting licence to operate a national, English-language Category 2¹ high definition (HD) specialty programming undertaking to be known as Discovery HD Theatre.
2. The applicant is the licensee of the analog specialty service Discovery Channel. 2953285 Canada Inc. is owned 80% by CTV Specialty Television Enterprises Inc. and 20% by Discovery Communications Inc., a non-Canadian corporation.
3. The applicant proposed to offer an HD programming service that would be devoted to science and technology, nature and the environment, adventure, animal behaviour, pet care, wildlife, travel and world cultures.
4. The programming would be drawn from the following categories, as set out in Schedule 1 to the *Specialty Services Regulations, 1990*: 1 News; 2(a) Analysis and interpretation; 2(b) Long-form documentary; 3 Reporting and actualities; 5(a) Formal education and pre-school; 5(b) Informal education/Recreation and leisure; 7(a) Ongoing drama series; 7(b) Ongoing comedy series (sitcoms); 7(c) Specials, mini-series or made-for-TV feature films; 7(d) Theatrical feature films aired on TV; 7(e) Animated television programs and films; 7(f) Programs of comedy sketches, improvisations, unscripted works, stand-up comedy; 7(g) Other drama; 10 Game shows; 11 General entertainment and human interest; 12 Interstitials; 13 Public service announcements; and 14 Infomercials, promotional and corporate videos.

¹ The Category 2 services are defined in *Introductory statement – Licensing of new digital pay and specialty services*, Public Notice CRTC 2000-171, 14 December 2000.

5. As well, the applicant proposed that no more than 15% of all programming broadcast during the broadcast week would be drawn from category 7.

Interventions

6. The Commission received several interventions in support of this application.

Commission's analysis and determination

7. In *Call for comments on a proposed framework for the licensing and distribution of high definition pay and specialty services*, Broadcasting Public Notice CRTC 2004-58, 6 August 2004 (Public Notice 2004-58), the Commission stated that, "during the transition period, the Commission would continue to consider applications for licences to provide new high definition services. Such applications would, as now, be assessed in accordance with the Commission's current practices and policies, including those regarding market entry, ownership, licensing and programming, as well as any policies ultimately adopted with regard to minimum amounts of high definition programming."
8. The Commission is satisfied that the application is in conformity with all applicable terms and conditions announced in *Introductory statement – Licensing of new digital pay and specialty services – Corrected Appendix 2*, Public Notice CRTC 2000-171-1, 6 March 2001 (Public Notice 2000-171-1) and Public Notice 2004-58. Accordingly, the Commission **approves** the application by 2953285 Canada Inc. for a broadcasting licence to operate the national, English-language Category 2 high-definition, specialty programming undertaking, Discovery HD Theatre.
9. The licence will expire 31 August 2012, and will be subject to the **conditions** set out in Public Notice 2000-171-1, as well as to the **conditions** set out in the appendix to this decision.

Issuance of the licence

10. A licence will be issued once the applicant has satisfied the Commission, with supporting documentation, that the following requirements have been met:
 - the applicant has entered into a distribution agreement with at least one licensed distributor; and

- the applicant has informed the Commission in writing that it is prepared to commence operations. The undertaking must be operational at the earliest possible date and in any event no later than 36 months from the date of this decision, unless a request for an extension of time is approved by the Commission before 21 October 2008. In order to ensure that such a request is processed in a timely manner, it should be submitted at least 60 days before that date.

Secretary General

This decision is to be appended to the licence. It is available in alternative format upon request, and may also be examined in PDF format or in HTML at the following Internet site: <http://www.crtc.gc.ca>

Appendix to Broadcasting Decision CRTC 2005-519

Conditions of licence

1. The licence will be subject to the conditions set out in *Introductory statement – Licensing of new digital pay and specialty services – Corrected Appendix 2*, Public Notice CRTC 2000-171-1, 6 March 2001.
2. The licensee shall provide a national, English-language Category 2 high-definition, specialty programming undertaking devoted to science and technology, nature and the environment, adventure, animal behaviour, pet care, wildlife, travel and world cultures.
3. The programming shall be drawn exclusively from the following categories, as set out in Schedule I to the *Specialty Services Regulations, 1990*, as amended from time to time:
 - 1 News
 - 2 (a) Analysis and interpretation
(b) Long-form documentary
 - 3 Reporting and actualities
 - 5 (a) Formal education and pre-school
(b) Informal education/Recreation and leisure
 - 7 Drama and comedy
 - (a) Ongoing drama series
 - (b) Ongoing comedy series (sitcoms)
 - (c) Specials, mini-series or made-for-TV feature films
 - (d) Theatrical feature films aired on TV
 - (e) Animated television programs and films
 - (f) Programs of comedy sketches, improvisations, unscripted works, stand-up comedy
 - (g) Other drama
 - 10 Game shows
 - 11 General entertainment and human interest
 - 12 Interstitials
 - 13 Public service announcements
 - 14 Infomercials, promotional and corporate videos
4. Not more than 15% of all programming broadcast during each broadcast week shall be drawn from category 7.

For the purposes of the conditions of this licence, including condition of licence no. 1, broadcast day means the period of up to 18 consecutive hours, beginning each day not earlier than six o'clock in the morning and ending not later than one o'clock in the morning of the following day, as selected by the licensee, or any other period approved by the Commission.