



Broadcasting Decision CRTC 2011-731

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Route reference: Part 1 application posted on 6 September 2011

Ottawa, 25 November 2011

MTS Allstream Inc.
Across Canada

Application 2011-1245-8

Addition of GMA News TV to the *List of non-Canadian programming services authorized for distribution*

*The Commission **approves** an application to add GMA News TV to the List of non-Canadian programming services authorized for distribution and amends the list accordingly. The revised list is available on the Commission's website at www.crtc.gc.ca under "Broadcasting Sector."*

Introduction

1. The Commission received an application dated 30 August 2011 from MTS Allstream Inc. (MTS) to add GMA News TV to the *List of non-Canadian programming services authorized for distribution* (the list).¹ The Commission did not receive any comments in response to the present application.
2. MTS described GMA News TV as a 24-hour news channel in the Filipino language with programming that includes breaking news coverage, issue-oriented, in-depth, and investigative news magazines, public service programs, documentaries and features on the Filipino culture.
3. In Broadcasting Public Notice 2004-96, the Commission stated that requests to add non-Canadian general interest third-language services to the list would generally be approved, subject to any requirement it deemed appropriate. In the case of non-Canadian third-language services that provide narrowly targeted or "niche" programming, the Commission stated that it would continue to apply a case-by-case assessment to determine whether such services are partially or totally competitive with Canadian pay or specialty services.

¹ In Broadcasting Regulatory Policy 2011-399, the Commission announced that, as of 1 September 2011, the lists of eligible satellite services available for distribution on a digital basis would be replaced with a consolidated list to be known as the *List of non-Canadian programming services authorized for distribution*.

4. In regard to non-Canadian news services, however, the Commission considers a more open-entry approach to be consistent with the importance it places on a diversity of editorial points of view. In this regard, in paragraph 246 of Broadcasting Public Notice 2008-100, the Commission stated that “absent clear evidence, as determined by the Commission, that a non-Canadian news service will violate Canadian regulations, such as those regarding abusive comment, the Commission will be predisposed to authorize non-Canadian news services for distribution in Canada.”

Commission’s analysis and decision

5. The Commission relies primarily on the comments filed to identify the Canadian pay and specialty services with which the service proposed to be added to the list might be totally or partially competitive and that therefore should be included in the assessment of the competitiveness of the service.
6. In the absence of opposing interventions and any evidence that the service would violate Canadian regulations, the Commission **approves** the application by MTS Allstream Inc. to add GMA News TV to the *List of non-Canadian programming services authorized for distribution* and amends the list accordingly. The *List of non-Canadian programming services authorized for distribution* is available on the Commission’s website at www.crtc.gc.ca under “Broadcasting Sector” and may be obtained in hard copy on request.

Secretary General

Related documents

- *List of non-Canadian programming services authorized for distribution*, Broadcasting Regulatory Policy CRTC 2011-399, 30 June 2011
- *Regulatory frameworks for broadcasting distribution undertakings and discretionary programming services* – Regulatory policy, Broadcasting Public Notice CRTC 2008-100, 30 October 2008
- *Improving the diversity of third-language television services – A revised approach to assessing requests to add non-Canadian third-language television services to the lists of eligible satellite services for distribution on a digital basis*, Broadcasting Public Notice CRTC 2004-96, 16 December 2004