



# MONACO TELECOM LAUNCHES NEW QUALITY DIGITAL AND

# **INTERNET EXPERIENCE FOR THE RESIDENTS OF MONACO**

# Monaco Telecom announces three new high end developments in the Principality:

- The launch of IPTV through a new generation TVBox
- The arrival of a number of new free channels
- The launch of 30 Meg ultra-broadband (VDSL) at the same price as 15 Meg (ADSL) at €29.90 per month.

Monaco Telecom, the Monaco based operation of Cable & Wireless Communications, has launched new TV and broadband services to coincide with the digital switchover. From 8 June 2010, residents in Monaco will be able to watch television with a new and free of charge service offering 18 television channels in Digital Terrestrial Television (DTT) format.

Monaco Telecom is introducing three major innovations that will revolutionise the digital viewing experience for residents. The first is the launch of IPTV through a new generation TVBox, a set top box which receives digital broadcast, including high definition channels. The TVBox gives customers access to a large number of interactive and recording functions.

There are already 18 free digital channels which can be received by all households by simply adjusting the television set or by adding a suitable decoder, like TVBox. Monaco Telecom's TVBox is equipped with a 160GB hard drive allowing 80 hours of recording with live programme control. Other features on the TVBox include an interactive programme guide, Video on Demand, and an iPhone remote control through an iPhone application.

Customers of the TVBox will also be able to enjoy a range of 40 free channels with the 'starter package', in addition to the existing free 18 channels. There are several other packages available adapted for the interests of customers. New channels include Discovery, MTV Base, Nickelodeon and the following High Definition (HD) channels, Eurosport, MTV and Disney Channel. With the TVBox, Monaco Telecom is offering customers the ability to wirelessly stream content around the home whilst also providing new types of interaction.

Monaco Telecom is also launching ultra-broadband internet access giving every household a 30 Meg connection via a VDSL modem. The fast speeds of VDSL mean that it is capable of supporting high bandwidth applications such as HD, as well as telephone services and wireless Internet access over a single connection, providing a full rounded customer experience in the home.

Both services were possible due to Monaco Telecom's investment in its network and development of the TV Box and VDSL systems. The launch of free digital television in the Principality is fully in line with the wishes of the Government. The official launch of digital television was marked by a ceremony attended by H.S.H. Prince Albert II on 7 June 2010.

For over five years the State of Monaco and Monaco Telecom have invested together in the modernisation and the digitisation of the network in order to be able to offer residents a new generation of television services. Martin Peronnet, General Manager of Monaco Telecom, said: "With this new offer, Monaco Telecom continues to pursue the dynamic development of innovative technologies and services, making a decisive step in its development by bringing the very best from the world of digital television into the heart of the interactive home environment in Monaco. Our teams have demonstrated a real ability to adapt to changing markets, new technologies and the customer's changing expectations."

Commenting on the new services, Tony Rice, Chief Executive of Cable & Wireless Communications said: "Cable & Wireless Communications congratulates the Principality of Monaco on the switchover to digital and I am pleased Monaco Telecom could play such a vital role in this. Monaco Telecom's new TV and broadband services will ensure Monaco's residents receive the highest quality communications services available."

# ENDS

#### Notes to editors:

Any television set bought after 1 March 2008 is already equipped with an integrated DTT decoder; if the television was bought before this date then a new television will be required to view the new digital channels.

All Monaco residents not equipped for digital television will continue to receive an analogue signal without having to adjust their sets. The analogue network will cohabit with the digital network for a number of months in order to guarantee continuity of service to audiences. The analogue switch off will be determined by the Government but we expect this to occur by end November 2011.

Monaco Telecom has 13,266 internet customers, 16,129 television customers (50% with analogue service), 34,553 fixed line customers, and 2,556 pre paid mobile customers.

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# **About Cable & Wireless Communications**

Cable & Wireless Communications is a full-service telecommunications business. We operate leading telecommunications businesses through four regional units – the Caribbean, Panama, Macau and Monaco & Islands. Our services include mobile, broadband and domestic and international fixed line services in most of our markets as well as pay-TV, data centre and hosting, carrier and managed service solutions. Our operations are focused on providing our customers – consumers, businesses, governments – with world-class service. We are the market leader in most products we offer and territories we serve. For more information visit www.cwc.com

# About Monaco Telecom

Monaco Telecom was founded in 1997 after the Government of Monaco expressed the desire to see the Monégasque Telephone Office, an administrative body, evolve into a private company. Monaco Telecom is 49% held by the English Operator Cable & Wireless Communications, 45% is held by the Société Nationale de Financement of which the State holds 100% and 6% by the Compagnie Monégasque de Banque.

#### **Our Business**

- <u>In the Principality</u>: to bring to the residents of Monaco and the companies of the Principality the full range of products and services of an innovative and convergent telecoms operator.
- <u>Internationally</u>: to pursue expansion in emerging markets through the acquisition of subsidiaries or through service contracts.