

World Review

A survey of some recent international developments

EC draft copyright directive

The EC has issued a draft directive for the harmonisation of European copyright law. The directive proposes a standard copyright life of 70 years for the works of citizens of member states. However, works of citizens of non-member states would attract copyright for the same period as the period of copyright in the non-member country. The directive if promulgated would apply to all copyright which had not expired prior to 1 January 1995.

Pay TV in Hong Kong

Asix month review of Hong Kong's broadcasting policy was completed in June 1992. Following the review, the Executive Council approved the grant of one territory-wide terrestrial subscription television licence by January 1993. The licensee will be given a three-year exclusivity period to establish itself. After that period expires, the market will be open to competition. Although fibre optic cable is the Government's preferred delivery technology, bids incorporating other methods of delivery will be considered.

Satellite Telecom Network for Kenya

The Kenyan Government has announced plans to establish a domestic satellite network. The network will enhance Kenya's television reception and telecommunications, including the development of mobile telephone services. The project, which will cost about US\$80 million, will be undertaken jointly with the United States and Italy. The initiative will displace the laying of fibre optic cables, which has proved expensive to lay.

PacStar Report

The Government of Papua New Guinea, the majority owner of the PacStar regional satellite system, recently commissioned a report into satellite

demand in the Pacific region. The report found:

- that at present there is a supply shortage in the Pacific Rim region, with capacity on three existing systems (Intelstat, Palapa and AsiaSat) being sold out;
- PacStar, if launched by 1995, would be the first of the new generation of satellites, although there would be other satellites by 1996;
- if all satellites planned for the region were launched, the current supply shortage could be replaced with a glut of capacity;
- there were several competitive service providers, including Intelstat, AsiaSat, Palapa, PanamSat, TRW Pacificom and Unicom, Measat, ThaiSat, KoreaSat, Optus and domestic satellites launched by Japan and the People's Republic of China.

Direct broadcast satellites

Hughes Communications Inc and U.S. Satellite Broadcasting plan to launch new high-powered direct broadcast satellites in 1994. The satellites will be capable of providing in excess of 130 program channels to viewers throughout the United States. Programming would be received on 18-inch dishes. As well as offering competition to cable television, transmissions from the satellites will be received at locations where cable reception is not available.

Assistance to Latvia

Camla Executive Member, Victoria Rubensohn, recently returned from Latvia where she has been providing consultancy services to the Latvian Government. Latvia, along with most other East European countries and states formerly part of the Soviet Union, is currently establishing a new regulatory regime for telecommunications and broadcasting services.

Contributions to World Review may be forwarded to the Editor.

"Let's do lunch"

CAMLA lunches provide an excellent opportunity to hear leading figures speak on recent communications developments and policy issues.

The next CAMLA lunch will be on Thursday 12 November 1992 at 12.30pm at the Ramada Renaissance Hotel, Pitt Street, Sydney. The speaker will be:

Mr Warwick Smith MP
Opposition Spokesperson on
Communications

Guests are welcome. CAMLA lunches are informative and entertaining social occasions, suitable for an invitation to be extended to a friend, business associate or client. As well as keeping you up-to-date, they allow informal discussion over lunch, during pre-lunch drinks and speakers' question time.

The cost is \$60 per member and \$65 for an invited guest. RSVP Friday 30 October 1992 to:

The Secretary, CAMLA, Box K541
Haymarket, Sydney NSW 2000

Please enclose your cheque, your name and the name of your organisation (if applicable). For further details contact Paul Mallam on 258 6577 or Ros Goncz on 660 1645.