



UNITED GROUP LAUNCHES ADRIA NEWS NETWORK

United Group has launched Adria News Network (ANN) under Adria News S.à r.l., bringing its news operations across Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia and Slovenia under a new governance structure aimed at strengthening editorial independence.

ANN integrates 14 television, print and digital brands, including N1, Nova S, Vijesti and Danas, serving a combined audience of over 16 million people and employing more than 1,000 journalists and staff.

The framework introduces an independent board and editorial council to oversee newsroom standards and ensure editorial decision-making remains insulated from group management and shareholder influence. Veteran media executive Rani R. Raad will chair the ANN board, while Brent Sadler has been appointed Chief News Executive.



ARD, ZDF RESTRUCTURE CHANNELS FOR DIGITAL SHIFT

German public broadcasters ARD and ZDF are restructuring their joint channel portfolio as part of reforms under the country's new national broadcast treaty.



The move will strengthen digital-first services and consolidate linear channels, with new joint offerings planned under the brands phoenix, neo, and info covering news, young adult content and documentaries.

As part of the restructuring, ARD will discontinue ARD alpha, tagesschau24 and ONE by December 31, 2026. The revised portfolio, launching January 1, 2027, will include joint services such as ARTE, 3sat, KiKA and funk, alongside the new channels.

BBC PROPOSES OPENING IPLAYER TO OTHER BROADCASTERS

The BBC has proposed opening its iPlayer platform to programmes from other UK public service broadcasters as part of its submission to the government's Charter Review.

The plan aims to create a shared digital destination for UK public service content, helping domestic broadcasters compete with global streaming platforms while keeping the BBC itself advertising-free.

The corporation also proposed opening BBC Sounds to third-party



audio providers and expanding partnerships with local news organisations through the Local Democracy Reporting Service.

BBC leaders said the proposals are intended to strengthen public service media, support the UK's creative economy and ensure sustainable funding for the broadcaster in the next Charter period.

EUTELSAT COMPLETES €1.5B BOND FINANCING

Satellite operator Eutelsat has completed a €1.5 billion bond offering, marking the final step in a broader €5 billion refinancing programme launched in 2025.

The financing package combines equity and debt and is backed by the company's major shareholders. It is designed to support low-earth-orbit satellite expansion, improve financial flexibility and accelerate debt reduction.



The programme also includes a wider funding plan to support around €4 billion in investments between 2026 and 2029, including projects linked to Europe's planned IRIS² satellite constellation.

Eutelsat said the stronger capital structure will help advance its multi-orbit satellite strategy and strengthen its position in global space connectivity markets. ■