



## LIBERTY'S NEW VENTURE



Liberty Global Ventures is foraying into a new segment in Germany a n d exploring

setting up Fibre to the Home project with a new JV.

Liberty Global Ventures, the investment arm of Liberty Global, and InfraVia Capital Partners, an independent private equity firm specialises in infrastructure and technology investments.

The 50:50 joint venture, which is subject to regulatory approval, sees the two companies leverage their expertise in infrastructure investment and development. The company will take a modular approach, with the first phase targeting a small number of municipalities in Germany.

“Liberty Networks Germany offers an exciting opportunity to leverage our expertise in deploying critical broadband infrastructure in a market we know very well. We’re also excited by the attractive returns offered by greenfield fibre network deployment in a country where millions of homes don’t yet have access to fast and reliable broadband. We look forward to working in partnership with InfraVia as we take a controlled approach to the opportunity as we move forward,”

said Robert Dunn, Managing Director, Connectivity Investments, Liberty Global.

Liberty has had success with having operated Unitymedia for a decade, Liberty Global brings extensive experience of the German market to the joint venture. This includes working closely with municipalities and regional authorities in Germany as Unitymedia expanded its network in the country, which reached 13 million homes passed and 7.2 million customers by the time of its sale to Vodafone in 2019.

## BBC HD FORAY



BBC’s regional programmes will now make its debut in HD and all 12 English regions and another three sub regions will be made available in HD on platforms including Sky, Freeview and Freesat. The change is scheduled to take place on October 21st, following an announcement earlier this year. Viewers in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland already have HD versions of BBC One available.

## EBU PICKS 5G & DTT

EBU is betting big on 5G & DTT and in a recent development as per a new report by the European Broadcasting Union (EBU) conclude that a 5G Broadcast system could be safely introduced alongside existing DTT in the contested UHF band, and that existing broadcast towers could be used to significantly enhance the



coverage and minimise the cost of rollout of this new technology.

5G Broadcast is an addition to the 5G standard that could bring free-to-air content to mobile phone users without the need for additional receivers to be built into handsets and for the user to get a subscription.

The first report, titled 5G Broadcast Network Planning and Evaluation (EBU TR 063), confirms that existing broadcast infrastructure – High Power High Tower (HPHT) and Medium Power Medium Tower (MPMT) – could have a role to play in 5G Broadcast and that testing should continue in this area.

HPHT and MPMT contribute to cost efficiency, but for good coverage in all environments they should be complemented with Low Power Low Tower (i.e., cellular networks) particularly in urban environments, the report says.

The report also stresses that due to practical and regulatory constraints at national and regional boundaries, hybrid 5G broadcast networks could be partially operated in multiple frequency networks. Although this lowers the spectral efficiency below that achievable by pure single frequency networks setups, the gains would outweigh the losses. The report also assesses the capacity (in bitrates) offered by the various network topologies.

The second report, Compatibility between 5G Broadcast and other DTT systems in the sub-700 MHz band (EBU TR 064), looks at how 5G Broadcast and existing DTT could co-exist in the UHF band currently used by DTT alone and evaluates three possible scenarios for the introduction of 5G Broadcast in the sub-700 MHz band. ■