



*DVB Interaction Channel through
the Public switched Telecommunications
System (PSTN) / Integrated Services Digital
Network (ISDN)*

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1 Scope

This draft European Telecommunication Standard (ETS) is the baseline specification for the provision of return channel based on PSTN and ISDN to Digital Video Broadcasting (DVB) systems.

It is not intended to specify a return channel solution associated to each broadcast system because the inter-operability of different delivery media to transport the return channel is desirable. Therefore the PSTN/ISDN solutions for the return channel apply to satellite, cable, SMATV, terrestrial, MMDS or any future DVB broadcasting system.

The solutions here provided for return channel through PSTN/ISDN are a part of a wider set of alternatives to implement interactive services for DVB broadcasting systems.

2 Normative references

For the purposes of this document, the following references apply:

- [1] ETS 300 001: "Attachments to the Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN); General technical requirements for equipment connected to an analogue subscriber interface in the PSTN".
- [2] ETS 300 011: "Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN): Primary rate user-network interface Layer 1 specification and test principles".
- [3] ETS 300 012 "Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN): Basic rate user-network interface Layer 1 specification and test principles."
- [4] ETS 300 402: "ISDN user-network interface - Data link layer specification" ITU-T Recommendation Q.921 Rev 1 (1994)
- [5] ETS 300 403: "Digital subscriber Signalling System No. 1 (DSS 1) - ISDN user-network interface layer 3 specification for basic call control" ITU-T Recommendation Q.931 Rev 1 (1994)
- [6] ITU-T Recommendations V.21, V.22, V.22bis, V.23, V.25, V.32, V.32bis, V.34 and V.42.
- [7] Official Journal of the European Communities, No. L 128, 23 May 1991: "Council Directive on the approximation of the laws of the Member States concerning telecommunications terminal equipment, including the mutual recognition of their conformity (91/263/EEC)".
- [8] prEN 50201: "Interface for DVB-IRD."
- [9] prETS 300 802: "Digital Video Broadcasting (DVB); Network Independent Protocols for DVB Interactive Services."
- [10] prETR ????: "Digital Video Broadcasting (DVB); Guidelines for use of the DVB specification - Network Independent Protocols for Interactive Services" (In preparation)

3 Abbreviations

For the purposes of this ETS, the following abbreviations apply:

AT	Attention
BC	Broadband Channel
BIM	Broadcast Interface Module
BRA	Basic Rate Access
DAVIC	Digital Audiovisual Council
DCE	Data Communication Equipment

DTE	Data Termination Equipment
DTMF	Dual Tone Multifrequency (dialing mode)
DVB	Digital Video Broadcasting
ETS	European Telecommunications Standard
GSTN	General Switched Telephone Network
IC	Interaction Channel
IIM	Interactive Interface Module
IRD	Integrated Receiver Decoder
ISDN	Integrated Services Digital Network
ITU	International Telecommunications Union
ITU-T	International Telecommunications Union - Telecommunications Standardization Sector
MMDS	Microwave Multipoint Distribution System
NIU	Network Interface Unit
OSI	Open Systems Interconnection
PSTN	Public Switched Telephone Network
SMATV	Satellite Master Antenna Television
STB	Set Top Box
STU	Set Top Unit

4 Reference model for system architecture of narrowband interaction channels in a broadcasting scenario (Asymmetric interactive services)

4.1 Protocol Stack Model

For asymmetric interactive services supporting broadcast to the home with narrowband return channel, a simple communications model consists of the following layers:

physical layer: Where all the physical (electrical) transmission parameters are defined.

transport layer: Defines all the relevant data structures and communication protocols like data containers, etc.

application layer: Is the interactive application software and runtime environments (e.g. home shopping application, script interpreter, etc.).

| This ETS addresses the lower two layers (the physical and transport) leaving the application layer open to competitive market forces. It is not the role of the DVB to define a standardized

| A simplified model of the OSI layers was adopted to facilitate the production of specifications for these nodes. Figure 1 points out the lower layers of the simplified model and identifies some of the key parameters for the lower two layers. Following the user requirements for interactive services, no attempt will be made to consider higher layers in this ETS.

Layer Structure for Generic System Reference Model

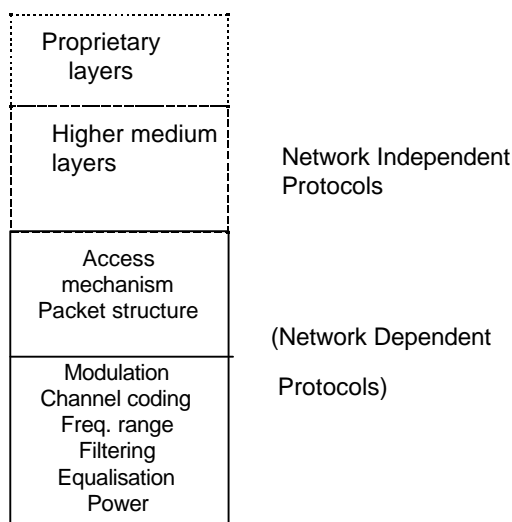


Figure 1: Layer structure for generic system reference model

This specification addresses the PSTN/ISDN network specific aspects only. The network independent protocols will be specified separately [9].

4.2 System Model

Figure 2 shows the system model which is to be used within DVB for interactive services.

In the system model, two channels are established between the Service provider and the User:

- **Broadcast channel (BC):** A unidirectional broadband Broadcast Channel including video, audio and data. BC is established from the service provider to the users. It may include the Forward Interaction path.
- **Interaction channel (IC):** A Bi-directional Interaction Channel is established between the service provider and the user for interaction purposes. It is formed by:
 - **Return Interaction path (Return Channel):** From the User to the Service Provider. It is used to make requests to the service provider or to answer questions. It is a narrowband channel. Also commonly known as return channel.
 - **Forward Interaction path:** From the service provider to the user. It is used to provide some sort of information by the service provider to the user and any other required communication for the interactive service provision. It may be embedded into the broadcast channel. It is possible that this channel is not required in some simple implementations which make use of the Broadcast Channel for the carriage of data to the user.

The user terminal is formed by the Network Interface Unit (NIU) (consisting of the Broadcast Interface Module (BIM) and the Interactive Interface Module (IIM)) and the Set Top Unit (STU). The user terminal provides interface for both broadcast and interaction channels. The interface between the user terminal and the interaction network is via the Interactive Interface Module.

The interface between the broadcast channels and the user terminal is via the Broadcast Interface Module (BIM).

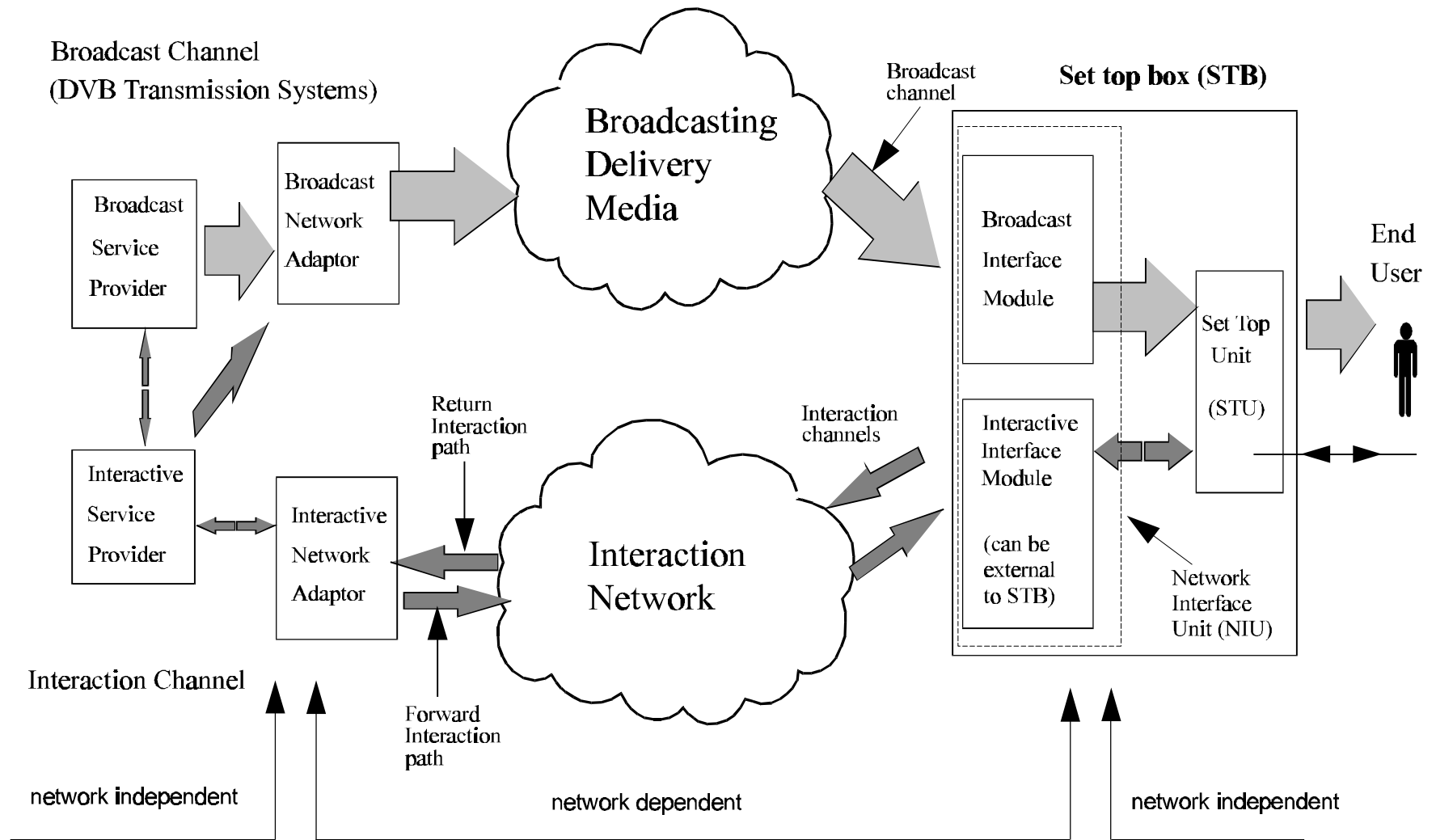


Figure 2: A generic system Reference Model for Interactive Systems

5 DVB Interaction channel specification for PSTN

The PSTN infrastructures can support the implementation of the return channel for interactive services suitable for DVB broadcasting systems.

PSTN can be used to implement interactive services in the DVB environment, providing a bi-directional communication path between the user terminal and the service provider by means of a modem.

In order to allow the access to the PSTN, the user terminal shall be provided with a modem (internal or external to the user terminal). The modem constitutes the User Interface Module to the interaction network.

The modem will be connected to the PSTN through the existing telephone line. Therefore it will share the line with other terminals/equipment already present at the customer premises (telephones, facsimile, other modems, etc.).

The interface between modem and PSTN shall be compliant with the national requirements for the terminal equipment as reported in ETS 300 001 (NET 4) [1].

5.1 Physical interfaces between the modem, the user terminal and PSTN

The physical interfaces between the modem, the user terminal and PSTN are described in this sub-clause. It applies to user terminals with internal or external modem.

5.1.1 External modem

The external modem shall support the interfaces requirements between the User Terminal (Data Termination Equipment) and the modem (Data Communication Equipment) as described in [8]. The external modem shall support the PSTN link interface as described in [8].

5.1.2 Integrated modem

The internal modem shall meet the same requirements as the external modem.

5.2 Calling procedures

The connection to PSTN shall be established according to the rules specified in the document ETS 300 001 (NET 4), with reference to the specific national requirements.

5.2.1 Dialing

The modem will use DTMF (Dual Tone Multi Frequency) dialing mode according to ETS 300 001 (NET 4)

Optionally pulse dialing mode can be used according to ETS 300 001 (NET 4).

5.2.2 Line monitoring

The modem shall be able to identify the status of the line ("on-hook" status or "off-hook" status).

When the line is engaged ("off-hook" status) the modem shall perform a call repetition procedure according to the distribution specified in ETS 300 001 (NET 4). Also, the call repetition process shall optionally be controlled by a procedure described in [10].

5.3 Call attempt when service provider line is busy

The modem will execute multiple call attempts in response of "busy line" signal from the service provider. If these call attempts are addressed to the same service provider number, they shall be distributed in time according to ETS 300 001 (NET 4). Also, the call repetition process shall optionally be controlled by the application layer using a Network Congestion Control Descriptor [9].

5.4 Forced disconnection during dialing or data transfer

The content of this subclause is necessary only for those European countries where the users capability to interrupt an active communication at any time is not provided by the PSTN. In this case the capability of interrupting an active communication shall be provided cutting off the connection by the calling device.

It is recognized that in some European countries it must be guaranteed that the user can interrupt the communication at any time. During dialing or data transfer phases, the modem connection shall be cut off and the modem shall perform a forced disconnection if the user hooks off any of the other terminals connected to the same line. This functionality is requested in order to enable emergency calls.

The modem shall be able to set-up the connection when requested from the user terminal. If it is not possible for the modem to interrupt the interaction when it is the called party, the modem itself shall not accept incoming calls from any service provider (AUTOANSWERING function disabled). The call establishing the bi-directional return channel is in this case always initiated by the modem towards the service provider.

[As an alternative option the modem can act as the called party in user terminals where the application layer includes a means of closing down the interaction channel from the server.]

6 DVB Interaction Channel Specification for ISDN

The ISDN infrastructures can support the implementation of the Return Channel for interactive services suitable for DVB broadcasting systems.

ISDN can be used to implement interactive services in DVB environment, providing a bi-directional communication path between the terminal and the service provider. ISDN BRA (Basic Rate Access) can be used.

6.1 Physical interface for connection to ISDN BRA

The physical interface to connect to ISDN BRA shall be as described in ETS 300 012 [3]

6.2 Calling procedures

The signaling protocols for ISDN BRA shall be as described in ETS 300 402 [4] (ITU-T Recommendations Q.921) and ETS 300 403 [5] (ITU-T Recommendations Q.931).

6.3 Forced disconnection

Disconnection for emergency calls can be implemented by the upper layer protocols using the signaling channel (D channel).

Annex A (informative): Bibliography

For the purposes of this ETS, the following informative references apply:

- 1) DVB-A008 October 1995 "Commercial requirements for asymmetric interactive services supporting broadcast to the home with narrowband return channels"
- 2) DAVIC 1.0 Specification. DAVIC System Reference Model