Latvia to Make Historic DTV Switch with Technology from Grass Valley

Paris, France/Nevada City, Calif. January 20, 2010 – **Grass Valley™** announces that it is assisting, through its distributor and system integrator in the Baltics Hannu-Pro, Latvia State Radio and Television Center (LVRTC) to make the switch from analog to digital transmission by installing an advanced DVB-T network that features encoding, multiplexing, and nationwide distribution technology and systems from Grass Valley.

The LVRTC is the technical DVB-T service provider for Lattelecom, the main incumbent Telco organization in Latvia, responsible for the nationwide deployment of DVB-T to provide terrestrial broadcasting of radio and television programs covering the entire territory of Latvia.

In the country's central broadcast station (headend) in Riga, ViBE EM2000 SD MPEG-4 encoders and NetProcessor 9030 systems will be installed to prepare the signals for transmission to the LVRTC's regional centers via an SDH network. The headend will also provide the required single frequency network (SFN) adaptation. Seven regional centers will host ViBE EM2000 encoders for encoding of regional programs and NetProcessor 9040 systems to provide program seamless splicing with regional programs as needed.

"This project was very complex from the start, so we knew we wanted the support of Grass Valley who knew exactly what we were trying to accomplish and were very instrumental in helping us get there," said Kalvis Baumanis, General Manager, Hannu-Pro. "We have worked with Grass Valley for many years and always feel confident recommending the company's technology to our clients. This has been a very satisfying experience for all involved."

"The comprehensive networking system now being installed will allow LVRTC to cover the entire country of Latvia while providing viewers with a significantly improved digital picture delivered over the air to their homes," said Jeff Rosica, Senior Vice President of Grass Valley. "Grass Valley is pleased to be a part of this historic milestone in Latvia's history."

The DVB-T system infrastructure will incorporate numerous NetProcessor 9010 network adapters to pass the signal to DVB-T transmitters; ViBE MPEG-4 decoders to support decoding to PAL and analog TV reception during the transition period; an XMS network management system, which provides network administration and is configured to support redundancy operations.

The XMS system is integrated with a Granite Sentinel monitoring system, which provides uninterrupted monitoring and compliance to the DVB-T standard (TR-101290) for the signals received from Lattelecom and ASI signals on multiplexer outputs. It also controls RF parameters (COFDM) before signals are passed on to the RF antennas. In addition, an electronic program guide (EPG) is being supplied by a Grass Valley Jade system.

Hannu-Pro began implementation of the first phase of this large-scale project in August 2009, with system testing scheduled for December. LVRTC's first national DVB-T multiplex and additional two multiplexes from Lattelecom will be available over-the-air to 95 percent of the Latvian population by January 2010.

Once the first phase is complete, a second phase will see the deployment of four additional DVB-T multiplexes. Thus by 2012—when the country's DVB-T service introduction will be finished—there will be seven DVB-T multiplexes available in Latvia, all based on headend technology from Grass Valley. All essential systems are designed to support full redundancy (1+1 or n+1), ensuring on-air reliability.

Overall system design and integration services are being provided by Hannu-Pro, with extensive assistance by Grass Valley. They are jointly providing the infrastructure for the reliable transport of signals from studios to the transmission sites, as well as planning, design, and maintenance of transmission systems.

About Thomson

About Grass Valley

With a rich history serving the broadcast and professional video industries, the Grass Valley name is synonymous with innovation, leadership, and performance. With a full range of products and services supporting many of the world's most high-profile television events, Grass Valley offers the most comprehensive portfolio of flexible and cost-effective digital technologies and systems available. Customers deploying Grass Valley solutions include most of the world's leading broadcast and teleproduction facilities, independent video professionals, as well as emerging content creators and distributors providing broadband, telecommunications, and transmission services. When you're watching news, sports, or entertainment programming, whether on a TV, the Web, or a mobile phone, you're watching Grass Valley at work.

For information about Grass Valley products, please visit www.grassvalley.com.

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