

HDTV

Focus Switzerland/Germany

prime focus report



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High Definition TV equipment and contents in Switzerland and Germany.

Management Summary	<p>HDTV is the technology that will replace the existing TV systems with improved picture quality and surround sound based on digital technology.</p> <p>The equipment and TV programs are available in limited quantity and are proven to work. Interoperability of all devices is not guaranteed yet.</p>	
Technology	<p>HDTV is fully built on digital technology and delivers 4 times the resolution of the existing analog TV systems like PAL or NTSC. It uses 5.1 Dolby-Digital for the sound system, but old TV equipment won't be compatible with HDTV. New equipment needs the HD-ready logo to be compatible with HDTV in the future.</p> <p>HDTV comes with a copy protection mechanism which does not allow to further distribute copy protected contents like Pay-TV or DVDs.</p>	Innovation Grade
Features	<p>Standard picture resolution of 1920x1080 (1080i Standard) No quality loss on full path from producer to consumer 16:9 aspect ratio of the pictures</p> <p>The negative aspect is the copy protection mechanism which does not deliver additional functionality for consumers, but sometimes makes troubles when using free TV content.</p>	Feature Richness
Usability	<p>When an HDTV system is in place, it will work in the same way as the existing TV equipment.</p> <p>There are only limited TV programs in HDTV available (Pro7 HD, Sat.1 HD, Premiere Euro1080). More programs are expected in near future.</p>	Usability
Praxis	<p>Currently there is not enough HD-ready equipment on the market and the interoperability is not fully guaranteed.</p> <p>The cabling of an HDTV system needs special attention as the length of the cables is limited and there exist various plugs and protocols that currently don't work together perfectly.</p> <p>The interoperability with existing AV-receivers is not proven to work at the moment. A limited number of new AV-receivers are HD-ready.</p>	Praxis
Remarks	<p>All components of a HDTV system have to be tested for proper interoperability prior to put in place.</p> <p>Components are: SAT-/cable-receiver, beamer, TV and AV-Receiver.</p>	
Recommendation	<p>The brilliant picture quality makes it worth to install a HDTV system in your home, but you have to pay attention to the various pitfalls in this new technology.</p>	Recommendation