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‘GERMANS, WELCOME HOME’

Germany – 21 January 2016
Mediengruppe RTL Deutschland

On 18 January 2016, Mediengruppe RTL Deutschland launched the brand new channel RTL International, which offers Germans living abroad a wide range of RTL Television formats in HD.
The recently launched channel targets German expats, German holidaymakers abroad and German language students. RTL International is available in a number of countries as a pay-TV channel via various platforms (satellite, cable, IP and OTT), and will soon also be available via an app as well as online for PC and Mac users. The new channel is already on air in Australia, Canada, Georgia, Israel and southern Africa. These countries will soon be followed by others, including the USA and Brazil. The channel is scheduled to become available online and via the app in March 2016.

The new TV channel is run by Andre Prahl, Head of Programme Distribution. The project manager is Stefan Sporn, General Manager International Distribution. The channel’s content is provided by the Digital Special-Interest Channels Division headed by Klaus Holtmann.

In an interview with *Handelsblatt*, Stefan Sporn explained that they are currently no plans “to force the channel’s distribution throughout Europe, since RTL is already available via satellite in many parts of the continent.” Regarding the breakeven he was very assertive: “We’re confident of making it into the profit zone within the next three years.”
RTL International broadcasts live RTL Television content, including the news programmes **RTL Aktuell**, **RTL Nachtjournal** and **Punkt 12** and the magazines **Exclusiv – Das Starmagazin** and **Explosiv – Das Magazin**. Anyone wishing to keep up with the news ‘back home’ can watch regional programmes such as **RTL Nord**, **RTL West** and **RTL Hessen**. Further entertainment is provided by the popular German action and drama series **Alarm für Cobra 11 – Die Autobahnpolizei** and the hospital series **Doctor’s Diary**.

Regarding the news, journalist Hans-Peter Siebenhaar mentioned in his *Handelsblatt* column that the new channel enhances pluralism: “now they [viewers] can watch RTL news in real time, which at last gives them a second source of information alongside [Germany’s state run international broadcaster] Deutsche Welle.” Furthermore, he added: “RTL’s launch of an international channel in this crisis-ridden world of ours is all the more important, informing viewers by bringing them politically unbiased news without any state intervention.”

**Andre Prahl:** “We want our content to reach viewers abroad via all relevant platforms. Beyond Germany, RTL International will make our programmes available in many countries around the world for the very first time.”

**Stefan Sporn:** “Mediengruppe RTL Deutschland’s launch of RTL International will be a worldwide first, targeting a hitherto neglected target group: the millions of Germans living abroad. To them, RTL International will at last say: ‘Welcome home!’ The very keen interest shown by global distribution platforms even before the channel’s launch means that very soon, within the next few months, RTL International will become available in many other countries, too.”

**Klaus Holtmann:** “RTL International is meant for German speakers abroad who want to stay in touch with their roots and find out what’s going on back home and which current issues are being talked about by their fellow Germans. Our broadcasts of the most popular RTL formats, many of which will go out live, will provide them with exciting, informative programmes that should more than meet their daily needs.”

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The cast of Doctor’s Diary

From left to right: The team of RTL Aktuell: Christian Häckl, Peter Kloeppel and Ulrike von der Groeben
OFFICIAL LAUNCH CELEBRATED

On 18 January 2016, all those involved in the RTL International project met up in Cologne to celebrate the new channel’s official launch. The project leaders took the chance to thank all people involved across the different divisions within the company.

“RTL International is a proper Mediengruppe RTL Deutschland project, and yet another example of successful cooperation between different divisions of our company. Once again, everybody pulled together to enable the channel’s successful launch. So I’d like to thank everyone involved,” said Anke Schäferkordt, CEO of Mediengruppe RTL Deutschland and Co-CEO of RTL Group.

1. Frank Hoffmann, Managing Director Programming at RTL Television, (first left)
2. Stefan Sporn, General Manager International Distribution
3. Impression from the launch event
4. Andre Prahl, Head of Programme Distribution, with Stefan Sporn, Klaus Holtmann, Head of Digital Special-Interest Channels and Peter Kloeppel, Anchorman of RTL Aktuell (from left to right)
5. Peter Kloeppel
On 21 January 2016, FremantleMedia announced that it acquired a 51 per cent majority stake in Abot Hameiri, a leading Israeli production company specialising in entertainment formats, scripted reality and drama.

United Kingdom – 21 January 2016

Abot Hameiri was founded in 2006 and has produced local versions of some of the biggest international entertainment formats such as The X Factor (a FremantleMedia / Syco Entertainment format), Survivor and Amazing Race. The company also has a strong track record of developing and producing its own formats, including Power Couple which has been sold to Brazil, China, South Africa, Germany, Portugal and Italy. The company’s scripted output includes the popular two-series Shtisel and the drama success A Good Family.
Co-founders Eitan Abot and Guy Hameiri are established television executives: Abot has more than 20 years’ experience and previously owned one of the largest television studios in Israel, MTVS Studios. Hameiri was Commercial Vice President at MTVS and prior to that, CEO of Look Talent Agency.

Sangeeta Desai, COO and CEO Emerging Markets of FremantleMedia, comments on the deal saying: “Israel is a highly creative market and this acquisition gives us the perfect entry point into Israel given Abot Hameiri’s established relationships with broadcasters and talent, breadth of genre offering and creative fit. We couldn’t be more pleased to be working with Eitan and Guy.”

Eitan Abot and Guy Hameiri jointly comment: “We are delighted to be partnering with FremantleMedia and are excited about the creative and commercial opportunities that being part of a bigger network will provide. We think there is a great fit between the business we have built and FremantleMedia.”

The company is a key strategic acquisition for FremantleMedia as they sought a partner who had a complementary creative approach and strong relationships within the thriving broadcast and production community in Israel. Abot Hameiri will be FremantleMedia’s creative hub in Israel, providing a strong pipeline of content which FremantleMedia can then produce and distribute through its international global network.

Sangeeta Desai

Abot Hameiri’s scripted output includes the popular two-series Shitsef

Abot Hameiri has a strong track record of developing and producing its own formats, including Power Couple
IP Network, the international sales arm of RTL Group, strengthens its digital offer through the integration of StyleHaul – the leading multi-channel network (MCN) for beauty, fashion and women’s lifestyle – in its multiscreen offer.

Luxembourg / North America – 21 January 2015

IP Network creates broadcast and online advertising solutions for brands who want to connect with foreign audiences. With the integration of StyleHaul in its digital offer, IP Network intends to propose creative brand content solutions around fashion and beauty to reach the millennial generation.

Stéphane Coruble, Managing Director of IP Network, says: “We are delighted to now represent this major actor from the MCN world on the international advertising market. Being the largest fashion and beauty MCN on YouTube, it will be a valuable asset in our global digital offer. This deal allows us to complete our European multiscreen offer, to continue to integrate RTL Group’s digital assets and to imagine further advertising possibilities with our clients in the sector.”

“As a new member of the RTL family, we are excited to work with a dynamic partner like IP Network, who will bring new content and advertising opportunities to a broader range of clients for StyleHaul,” adds Olivier Delfosse, Chief Operating Officer at StyleHaul. “This partnership is an organic fit for StyleHaul and we are looking forward to the acceleration of our already fast-growing business in Europe.”
FremantleMedia and Argentina’s leading television network Telefe have announced a two year co-development partnership to create and develop entertainment/non-scripted formats for the Argentinian and wider-Latin American market.

United Kingdom – 20 January 2016

The news underpins FremantleMedia’s commitment to grow its business in emerging markets, including Latin America. Based in Buenos Aires, the development team will comprise of staff from both companies, with Telefe drawing on FremantleMedia’s creative strength to co-develop original entertainment intellectual property. Telefe will have exclusive rights on all new shows to broadcast on its Argentinian network in Argentina and across Latin America, reaching millions of viewers. FremantleMedia has worldwide rights to the shows created through the deal, which will be sold through its international distribution network, FremantleMedia International and its global network of production companies.

Adrián Santucho, CEO of FremantleMedia Latin America, says: “Today’s agreement is an important and exciting step forward in FremantleMedia’s plans to grow its business in Latin America as we develop and produce shows for the Argentinian market. As the country’s most popular television network, we couldn’t have asked for a better partner. We’re really looking forward to working with Tomás and his team over the next two years to create shows that will appeal to audiences in Argentina and around the world.”

Tomás Yankelevich, Head of Entertainment of Telefe, adds: “FremantleMedia is a world-renowned producer of entertainment shows, loved by audiences all over the globe. We embark on this exciting challenge with great enthusiasm. Telefe has been producing entertainment shows with vast success for decades in Argentina. Now, with the expansion of our content development team, and working together with Fremantle, we know it is a big step forward to generate new formats, not only for our screen but also for the rest of the world.”
On Monday 18 January 2016, Nicolas de Tavernost, Président du Directoire of Groupe M6, held an interview with Le Figaro’s Buzz Média, where he discussed about Groupe M6’s goals and strategy over the coming year.

France – 18 January 2016

In the interview, Nicolas de Tavernost commented on Groupe M6’s ratings for the year 2015 and reiterated that Groupe M6 was the only historical broadcaster to have made headway in 2015. He then went on to set the 2016 goals for Groupe M6’s channels. As for the flagship channel M6, he said: “In 2016, we have a challenge for M6: to climb back above the 10 per cent barrier for the total audience, and above the 16 per cent mark for the women responsible for purchases.” When asked how he planned to attain these objectives, Nicolas de Tavernost answered: “To bring that about, we are going to air powerful new programmes and continue investing in M6.”

Responding to how Groupe M6 is preparing to shape up to changes in the television sector, he said: “Our job is to adapt to the profound changes going on in the TV sector. How? By adapting to the new viewing habits via catch-up services, which will compensate for the decrease in linear TV consumption. We are also preparing new content formats.” To note that the revamped 6play, the catch-up and video-on-demand platform of Groupe M6 was successfully launched on 1 December 2015.

Read more here about the new 6play.

THE FRENCH LOVE M6!

Between 20 and 28 January 2016, M6 will be running a national campaign to highlight its new title as France’s favourite TV channel of 2015. M6 emerged the clear winner in a survey of 25 free TV channels conducted by the French Institute of Public Opinion (IFOP), crowning it French viewers’ favourite free-to-air channel.
At the presentation of this year’s German Television Awards on 13 January 2016 in Düsseldorf, shows broadcast on Vox and RTL Television and produced by UFA were among the winners: Vox received three; RTL Television and UFA received two awards each.

Germany – 15 January 2016

In the category ‘Best Documentary / Reportage’, the reportage Asternweg – Eine Straße ohne Ausweg, broadcast on Vox about people living in a social hotspot in Kaiserslautern, won the award. In the category ‘Best Presenter Entertainment’, Barbara Schöneberger was honoured as an “all-rounder in television entertainment” for her presentation of Die 2 – Gottschalk & Jauch gegen alle on RTL Television. The show Die Höhle der Löwen, broadcast on Vox, in which startup entrepreneurs and inventors put their ideas up for a reality check, won the award for ‘Best Factual Entertainment’. The TV drama Nackt unter Wölfen produced by UFA won an award for ‘Best TV Film’.

In the category ‘Best Series’, the jury chose Club der roten Bänder (Vox) as the winner. Jonas Nay was honored as ‘Best Actor’ for Deutschland 83 (UFA/RTL Television).

The honorary award of the donors of the 2016 German Television Awards went to journalist and author Günter Wallraf. The 73 year-old journalist, like nobody else, has made a special contribution to investigative journalism in Germany in his over 50 year-long professional career. This year, he is back on RTL Television with new episodes of Team Wallraf – Reporter Undercover.
Welcome to the jungle!

Ich bin ein Star – Holt mich hier raus! (I'm A Celebrity... Get Me Out Of Here!) is back! The tenth season of the iconic reality show that plunges celebrities into a jungle environment kicked off on 15 January 2016 on RTL Television in Germany. And since the series started, millions of viewers have tuned in to watch the celebrities' daily life in the jungle. The first episode of the tenth season was watched by a total of 7.68 million viewers and in the key demographic 14 to 59 year old the audience share reached 37.6 per cent.
New Dragon
Vox
Entrepreneur Carsten Maschmeyer is a new investor in the third season of Die Höhle der Löwen (Dragon’s Den) on Vox. In addition to new jury member Ralf Dümmel, Jochen Schweitzer, Frank Thelen and Judith Williams are again part of the show.
Germany – 19 January 2016

The force awakens for Spanish production
Atresmedia
Produced by Atresmedia Cine, the film Palmeras en la nieve (Palm Trees In The Snow) has reached the top at the Spanish box office. Since the film’s launch on 25 December 2015, more than 1.5 million people have seen the romantic drama in movie theaters – more than Star Wars – The Force Awakens.
Spain – 18 January 2016

A successful Celebrity
FremantleMedia North America
FremantleMedia North America has announced that its prime-time summer hit Celebrity Family Feud will return for a second season on the ABC Television Network.
North America – 19 January 2016

Do not miss anything
RTL Television / Vox
As of now, clients of Unitymedia can watch episodes of RTL Television and Vox formats with a slight time shift via their Set-Top-boxes. Highlights are Ich bin ein Star – Holt mich hier raus! (I’m A Celebrity… Get Me Out Of Here!) and Shopping Queen.
Germany – 20 January 2016

RTL Radio second to none
RTL Radio (France)
According to Médiametrie, RTL Radio is number one radio in 2015 with an audience share of 11.7 per cent and a cumulated audience share of 11.9 per cent. The radio station records the highest progression of all other radios in France for 2015.
France – 21 January 2016
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