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Philip Graf to Chair Broadband Stakeholder Group

The BSG today announces the appointment of Philip Graf CBE as its new Chairman today. The former CEO of Trinity Mirror plc will take over from Keith Todd CBE who is stepping down after three years at the helm. Graf has extensive experience in the media sector and was the author of the recent independent review of BBC Online. His expertise will be highly relevant as the emphasis of the broadband agenda shifts towards the development of new media content applications and services.

Philip Graf says: "I'm delighted to be taking on this new role as Chairman of the BSG as the industry faces a brand new set of challenges. We're making good progress on the infrastructure, and although there is more work to be done there, the real challenge now is to make sure that as a nation we leverage the full value of broadband.

"This is one of the most important issues facing our nation today. Countries that harness the benefits of broadband-enabled ICT, services and applications quickly and deeply will achieve significant competitive advantage over countries that don't. If we exploit broadband effectively we can improve productivity, innovation, growth and quality of life of our citizens. But if we fail to keep up with international competitors, we risk becoming a high-cost / low-value economy, it is as simple as that."

Keith Todd thanked the many individuals who have contributed to the work of the BSG over the last three years. "My big request to all the stakeholders as I pass the broadband baton to Philip is that collectively we push forward and make the UK one of the world's leading broadband enabled knowledge economies. We've made great progress over the last three years but we are still a long way from realising the full benefits that broadband can offer."

Mike O'Brien, Minister of State for Energy and E-Commerce said "I would like to thank Keith Todd for his contribution towards delivering a 'Broadband Britain' since he took on the position of Chairman of the BSG in February in 2002. The success to date of the BSG is due in no small part to the enthusiasm and energy, which Keith brought with him to the role of Chairman.

"Substantial progress has been made over these past three years in developing the UK broadband market. As we move to almost universal broadband availability across the UK, we

need to ensure that we use and exploit broadband technology and the content and services, which this technology can deliver. I look forward to working with Philip Graf as he takes on the challenges of the Chairman of the BSG in this next stage of the broadband agenda.”

Notes:**The Broadband Stakeholder Group**

- The Broadband Stakeholder Group (BSG) is the key advisory group to government on promoting the adoption of broadband services. The BSG works as a facilitator, bringing together stakeholders from across the broadband value chain to share knowledge and work in partnership to support the UK's ongoing transition towards being a world leading connected economy by 2010.
- The BSG's vision is for the United Kingdom to be a world leading connected economy in 2010, as measured by the extent of the sophisticated use and exploitation of broadband-enabled ICT, content, applications and services by citizens, consumers, enterprises and the public sector. Membership of the BSG is voluntary and is open to corporations, organisations and individuals throughout the broadband value chain.
- Philip Graf CBE was CEO of Trinity Plc from 1993-1999 and CEO of Trinity Mirror plc from 1999-2003. He is currently working for The Change Partnership and is a director of a number of companies. He was appointed by the DCMS as the Independent Reviewer of BBC Online and published his report in May 2004.
- Keith Todd CBE was appointed as Non-executive Chairman of the UK Broadband Stakeholder Group in February 2002. He is also Non-Executive Chairman of Easynet plc (a telecom services company focussed on Broadband services including local loop unbundling), Executive Chairman of FFastFill PLC (a software and services company focussed on the capital markets) and Knotty Green Consultants, his own consultancy company focussed on 'company doctoring' in the technology sector. Keith was previously Chief Executive of ICL plc 1996-2000 (now Fujitsu services) and responsible for the transformation of ICL from a hardware product company to a \$4bn IT services company. He held a number of other senior executive positions in ICL and GEC Marconi defence business, including working in the US for 5 years between 1981 and 1986. He started his career in the public sector. Keith was awarded a CBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List in 2004, for services to the Telecommunications Industry.

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