

# [UZ] State Programme of Digital TV Switchover Approved

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On 17 April 2012 President Islam Karimov of Uzbekistan signed a resolution “On the State Programme on technical and technological transfer to digital television broadcasting in Uzbekistan”. The document envisages the switch-over taking place in two stages: the first stage in 2012-15 and the second stage in 2016-17. Full introduction of digital television is scheduled by the end of 2017. The government plans to retain both analogue and digital broadcasting until 1 January 2018.

Until 1 January 2018 the state radio transmission centre and the National Broadcasting Company (NTRKU) are entitled to tax relief on profits and on duty fees levied on the import of digital equipment. These provisions are to allow for greater spending on the digital switch-over. NTRKU, the Ministry of Culture and the “Republican Centre of propaganda of spirituality and enlightenment” were invited to suggest more digital TV channels and programming. The National Association of Electronic Mass Media of Uzbekistan (NAESMI), has been assigned the task of modernising private television companies in order to allow for a succession of non-state programmes.

The State Programme also deals with a number of related issues, including the establishment of 12 state-run digital television programmes, the protection of minors and the setting of technical standards (in 2012 and 2013). Development of digital networks and digitisation of archives will be funded by “low interest foreign credits”. This initiative foresees low interest loans offered to special sectors of the population for the purchase of set-top boxes and digital television sets.

## ***О Государственной программе по техническому и технологическому переходу на цифровое телевещание в Республике Узбекистан***

*Resolution of the President of Republic of Uzbekistan “On the State Programme on technical and technological transfer to digital television broadcasting in Uzbekistan” of 17 April 2012, No. PP-1741.*

