



13 November 2007

## **Channel 4 proposing to outsource channel operations to Red Bee Media**

Channel 4 has today unveiled proposals to contract out to Red Bee Media a range of broadcast and production services currently being carried out in-house by its Channel Operations and 124 Facilities divisions.

The proposal, which is subject to contract completion as well as consultation with staff over how their terms and conditions of employment will be affected by the transfer, will give Channel 4 access to flexible purpose built facilities. It affects more than 100 staff and encompasses the channel's broadcast engineering and transmission teams, as well as post production, library services and on-air graphics.

Staff working in the affected areas are expected to transfer from Channel 4's Victoria headquarters to Red Bee Media's Broadcast Centre in White City over a 12 month period from the second quarter next year, with the exception of those working in post production and on-air graphics who will remain based at Horseferry Road but be in Red Bee Media's employment.

Red Bee Media has been selected as Channel 4's preferred partner after a competitive tender. Outsourcing these functions is expected to deliver annual savings in the region of 10% to 15% on the channel's current Channel Operations budget. Under the terms of the new contract, Red Bee Media will make a significant capital investment in new state-of-the-art facilities in White City.

Channel 4's Group Finance Director, Anne Bulford, said: "Having carried out an extensive review, the board has concluded that there are significant benefits to the channel from outsourcing these operations.

"Making our unique public service content available across new digital platforms is placing considerable financial and technological demands on the channel. Outsourcing these functions will allow us to tap into the more considerable and flexible resources of a big, specialist provider and help us stay competitive in the face of rapid technological change.

“Having completed a competitive tender, we’re confident that Red Bee Media is the best possible partner for us. In negotiating this deal with Red Bee Media we have sought to protect the terms and conditions of employment for our staff and we are confident the transfer will work well.”

Red Bee Media’s CEO Pam Masters said: “I am delighted in Channel 4’s decision to outsource its playout and production services to us, and we welcome the staff that will be transferring to Red Bee Media from Channel 4. Having been part of the original Channel 4 team and instrumental in setting it up 25 years ago, winning this contract is very close to my heart. We have developed a flexible solution for Channel 4 that will enable them to take advantage of the latest technology and innovation in media management and delivery while enabling them to save money to put back into programming.”

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**Notes to editors:**

Subject to contractual negotiation, Red Bee Media will provide playout production services for the following channels:

- Channel 4 (all six commercial regions on analogue, satellite and Freeview)
- Channel 4 +1
- E4
- E4 +1
- More4
- More4 +1
- Film4

- **Film4 +1**
- **Channel 4's new HD service launching by the end of the year**
- **Playout and transcoding C4 streams for 4OD**
- **Video on demand to 4OD, Virgin Media cable platform, BT and Tiscali**
- **Mobile streams to Vodafone, Orange, T-Mobile**
- **Ingest, storage and archive of material**
- **Creation of programme clips**
- **Legacy video tape format transfers**
- **QC and editing of standard definition and high definition content at the 124 Facility in Channel 4's offices in Horseferry Road as well as technical support**

**For more information, please contact:**

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