



As part of the BDM (Broadcasting Digital Migration) Programme, USAASA is required to assist poor TV-owning households by subsidizing the cost to acquire DTT (Digital Terrestrial Television) and DTH (Direct to Home) Set-Top Boxes and antennas, as well as provide installation services (through the USAF). To achieve this, USAASA is required to:

- Define the criteria for identifying poor TV-owning households (Qualifying Criteria);
- Appoint suppliers/manufacturers of locally produced STBs and Antennas, from which STBs are to be procured for distribution to qualifying households, through the (SAPO) South African Post Office branch network;
- Manage a database of installers, which will be used to provide STB installation services to households that have qualified for and acquired STBs; and
- Ensure the effective management of the project, pre and post the commercial launch of DTT.

The switch-on and switch-off date of the digital and analogue broadcasting digital terrestrial television signals will respectively be determined by the Minister of Communications in consultation with Cabinet. The national broadcasting terrestrial television digital signal coverage shall aim to cover 84 percent of the total South African population. Areas that may be deemed difficult or uneconomical to reach will be covered by free-to-air DTH satellite using the DVB-S2 technology.

The Set-Top Box Subsidy project seeks to:

1. Ensure that the objectives of the “Broadcasting Digital Migration Policy of South Africa” are met;
2. Ensure an efficient process of providing subsidies to poor TV-owning households; and
3. Ensure that the 5 Million poor TV-owning households targeted for subsidisation do indeed receive Set-Top Boxes and become part of a Digital South Africa.

While the process to migrate to the digital broadcasting system affects all South African, the scheme of ownership is aimed at assisting the 5 million poor TV owning households to acquire

set-top-boxes. The scheme will be implemented in a phased approach aligned to Sentech's DTT transmitter rollout plan.

Households can apply for subsidies through the South Africa Post Office Outlets. The following documentation is required as part of the application process:

1. Valid identification document.
2. Proof of TV ownership.
3. Proof of monthly income.
4. Proof of address.

If the application for a STB subsidy is not approved, the Post Office will provide reasons to the applicant why the application was not approved.

Approved households will receive their set top box and related accessories from the South African Post Office. The approved households will also be issued with an installation voucher. A USAASA approved installer will contact the beneficiary within five working days to make the necessary arrangements for the installation of the beneficiaries' equipment.

The manufacturing of set-top boxes and related accessories has already commenced in line with government's industrial policy. The rollout out of set-top-boxes has commenced in the Square Kilometre Array area of the Northern Cape and will soon be starting in the other provinces of South Africa.

The project milestone status summary is as per table below:

