

National Geographic Channels International obtains rights

JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA: National Geographic Channels International (NGCI) has announced the acquisition of National Geographic Television International's (NGTI) sales and distribution operations and related programming rights in a move that allows it to extend and control exclusivity windows for partners carrying its networks worldwide in 163 countries.



International

NGCI has obtained global television and certain digital rights to NGTI's extensive programming catalogue - representing more than 1 000 hours of programming. NGCI will also control broadcast, VOD, SVOD and related digital rights for all present inventory and future National Geographic Channel produced programming while National Geographic Ventures (NGV) will continue to retain home entertainment, theatrical rights, short form video and other affiliated digital rights.

"Secondary windows of National Geographic programming on other platforms have been an important concern for our channel partners," said Hernan Lopez, president and CEO of Fox International Channels and NGCI, "NGCI can now offer our operators full assurance of exclusivity while at the same time expanding our resources to increase the overall programming budget-significant milestones as the network continues to evolve, approaching 15 years of continued success in the pay-tv sphere."

Extending premiere windows offers a two-fold advantage: protecting the investment value for NGCI business partners - especially network operators and advertisers - through exclusive access to National Geographic programming while also offering audiences a signature broadcast destination for the National Geographic viewing experience.

"National Geographic Channels' success as a major player in the nonfiction TV programming and distribution arena is driving us to take a strategic view of our global broadcast distribution business," said Ted Prince, Jr., COO, National Geographic Global Media and president, NGV. "By putting broadcast distribution and sales under the same worldwide umbrella, we're creating a distribution synergy that will optimize global initiatives, and allow NGV to continue to expand worldwide home entertainment and digital streaming businesses."