

Hello? It's TV Calling

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According to In-Stat/MDR, the number of telecom TV subscribers worldwide will grow by over 100% in 2004. In-Stat finds that there are providers in many markets across the globe ready to offer TV through telecom infrastructure. For example, three pay-TV providers in France offer digital TV over copper networks, and TV over DSL is being rolled out in Hong Kong and Japan. Specifically, FastWeb in Italy is targeting current customers with TV services and Video Networks in London, England has re-launched its HomeChoice service. *TheRegister* reported on Friday that Video Networks will make its new broadband and digital TV services available to between 2.5 million and 3 million people in London.

In-Stat explains that telecom TV is the delivery of digital TV services through ADSL, VDSL and fiber networks. The research firm expects the further development of advanced video compression to make it even easier for telecoms to deliver high definition streams over DSL connections. Needless to say, the opportunity the services pose to telecom companies is huge, considering they may not have to lose customers to cable competitors. Indeed In-Stat finds that many telecom TV equipment suppliers are getting more and more requests for proposals.

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