

TV Receive Only Dish (TVRO)

1987	1988	1989	1990-1995
-----	-----	-----	-----
M\$0.5 million	M\$5.0 million	M\$0.5 million	M\$150 million
1995-2000			

M\$600 million (pending implementation of Direct Broadcast Satellite system).			

RTM recently announced its plans to set up an internal network of television receive only stations or TVROs (Business Times 7/8/89). Transponder Services, the company which was awarded the letter of intent in May 1989 for the engineering, supply and maintenance of RTM's TVRO system, will conduct a survey and frequency coordination test. The Director of Transponder Services Sheikh Abdul Rahim Datuk Sheikh Bakar revealed that the survey is expected to cost M\$1 million and will take about three months to complete. A 16-member team comprising French and local satellite communication experts will be involved in the survey. The French experts are from Sofratev, Telediffusion de France.

Transponder Services signed an agreement with Sofratev for the supply of hardware and technical services for the project. As the main contractor, Sofratev will package the project on a turnkey basis and arrange the financing.

The TVRO network plan, part of RTM's ambitious M\$500 million modernization plan, is the first step towards implementation of the Direct Broadcasting Satellite (DBS) system. It is understood that RTM's modernization proposal was submitted to the Treasury early this year. According to the Business Times, sources have indicated that the funding was approved recently. However no official announcement has been made as yet (Business Times 7/8/89). Once the TVRO networks is completed in about 20 months, RTM will cease to transmit via the microwave links network. Under the agreement, Transponder Services, the concession holder, will charge RTM M\$15 million a year. Presently RTM pays Syarikat Telekom Malaysia (STM) M\$45 million a year for using the microwave network.

According to Sheikh Abdul Rahim, a total of 31 TVRO stations will be set up throughout the country. These stations will be located near RTM's present transmitter sites. When RTM broadcasts via satellite, viewers will still receive TV programmes the usual way except that the quality of audio and visual reception will be greatly improved. Programmes will be transmitted to houses via the Indonesian Palapa satellite and the soon to be built TVRO network. Installation of the TVRO stations is expected to maximize the use of RTM's existing satellite complex, Komsar. Under the programme, RTM is offered seven FM radio networks as well as another seven as backup and two TV channels and two reserves. The Indonesian satellite has excess capacity to offer to its Asean neighbours. In fact, Thailand television is using some of the channels at the present time.