

# Historic pact reunites AETN and ZDF for a further three years

A&E Television Networks (AETN) and ZDF Enterprises renewed their long-standing distribution and co-production alliance in Cannes this week. The partnership, which began in 2005, has been extended for three years.

The agreement involves ZDF acquiring non-fiction content from AETN International's History catalogue for use in its weekly ZDF History programming block. In return, AETN-backed channels in Germany acquire a raft of history, lifestyle and biography shows from ZDF Enterprises.

In addition to this arrangement, the two partners have also extended their co-pro activities by announcing plans for nine contemporary and ancient history productions to be made over the next three years. One of these, Final Days Of An



From left: ZDF Enterprises' Alexander Coridass; ZDF head of programming Thomas Bellut; AETN International senior vice-president Sean Cohan and vice-president of programming & production Michael Katz; with ZDF Enterprises vice-president of distribution Fred Burcksen; vice-president of North American operations Susanne Mueller and COO Stephan Adrian

Icon, examines the lives of 13 historical figures and their deaths under mysterious circumstances. A final element of the deal sees AETN International name ZDF Enterprises as distributor of Modern Marvels in German-speaking Eu-

rope. Commenting on the alliance, ZDF Enterprises' president and CEO Alexander Coridass said: "In this competitive time of digital changes, we are pleased our close relationship with this reliable partner is still going strong."