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 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 Europe. 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.”