

ZDFE AND NAT GEO CLOSE 63-HOUR DEAL



Package deal: ZDFE's Fred Burcksen (left), NGC's Germaine Deagan Sweet, ZDFE's Kristina Hollstein and NGC's David Lyle

ZDF ENTERPRISES (ZDFE) — the commercial arm of German public broadcaster ZDF — has acquired a 63-hour package of programming from National Geographic Channels (NGC) for worldwide distribution. The deal, which follows on from a previous distribution agreement between the two companies, will add a variety of successful series and specials to ZDFE's roster, including seasons three and four of Alaska State Troopers and season four of Hard Times. The package also includes the new series Rocket City Scientists, Navajo Police and CIA Confidential. "This new deal furthers our commitment to growing relationships with international partners," said David Lyle, CEO of NGC. "ZDFE is an important partner for our networks in acquisitions, co-productions and distribution." Alexander Coridass, president and CEO of ZDFE, added: "The success we've encountered with the first 60 hours of [NGC] programming has proved National Geographic's 'magic touch' with respect to programme concepts and realisation. The unique mix of serious information, action, quest, humour and mystery makes these factual programmes winners among all demographics." The new agreement is the latest collaboration in a long-standing co-production and distribution relationship between ZDF, ZDFE and NGC. Most recently, NGC acquired the contemporary history series Secrets Of The Third Reich for NGC International and NGC US.