

New Autentic HD channels to be home to ZDF shows



From left: ZDF Enterprises' Stephan Adrian, Autentic's Patrick Hoerl, ZDF Enterprise's Alexander Coridass and Fred Burcksen

AUTENTIC has used MIPTV to announce launch plans for two new international special-interest HD channels. Spark is a factual channel that will show a broad spectrum of science, ecological, technology, na-

ture and wildlife films. Patrick Hoerl, CEO of Autentic, said: "Our goal is to offer top-notch entertainment for all family members." Spark will have exclusive access to Autentic and ZDF's libraries and also draw its

programming from the companies' new production output. In addition, the channel plans to offer programming tailored specifically to local markets.

Also poised for launch is feature-film channel Freestar, which will focus on independent movies, films of artistic value and on major film festivals.

Freestar, which will be available both as a linear and on-demand service, will present theatrical highlights from outside of the US studio system. "With Freestar, viewers can create their own personal film festival, in top quality and around the clock," channel manager Philipp Riccabona said.

Autentic is a Munich-based production and distribution joint venture between Beta Film and Patrick Hoerl.