TV revolution puts future in viewers' hands

■ Continued from C1

likely to roll out similar services once it builds its own ADSL2+ network following the opening of Telecom's network next year, Harley says.

IPTV services typically include the ability to time-shift programmes, allowing viewers to watch shows whenever they want, as well as deeper on-screen programming guides and pay-per-view options. On-screen voting through a remote control will replace the cellphone text voting seen on shows such as NZ Idol. Viewers will also be able to pause, rewind and fast forward live TV.

Movie offerings also figure prominently in most IPTV scenarios, which means ISPs will go head to head with video rental stores and traditional television providers.

Rick Friesen, chief operating officer of CanWest — which owns TV3 and C4 — argues that internet TV is still a myth in New Zealand, but the network was discussing when the time could be right to move towards it.

"In terms of television, if we could live in a land where there were only three television stations and no more. that would be a wonderful thing for us but that's not reality," he says. "You just adapt to changing times and internet television will be part of that landscape.

Friesen says it will be at least five years before the commercial impact of internet television hits, but when it does, it could be a threat.

"It's another way of getting the programming and obviously once it's fully established, and you can get a comparable signal on internet TV, then the viewer obviously has the option to bypass advertisers and bypass television networks."

The key for networks is to maintain strong relationships with content providers, he says. CanWest currently buys shows to screen free-to-air but it would need to negotiate buying another set of rights - called IPTV rights — from content providers if it were to set up some form of IPTV. CanWest has not yet bought the rights because the technology to use them does not yet exist, Friesen says.

A TVNZ spokesperson said the network wanted to provide IPTV service and it had some rights.

Sky also holds IPTV rights for its "valuable" programmes, chief executive John Fellet says. "It's better to get it before you need it than when you're desperate to get it."

Fellet says IPTV is not yet a commercial reality but when it is the pay-TV network plans to be a part of it.

Sky and Telecom have tested a hybrid box taking both internet and digital feeds and Sky is working through the logistics of launching a



ACCESS ALL AREAS: Apple has already sold millions of downloads of popular shows such as Desperate Housewives for viewing on iPods and computers in the US.

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RICK FRIESEN CANWEST CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

service into New Zealand.

"It's our goal to try to be everybody's pay-TV partner and so if Woosh wants to offer an IPTV television product, we'd like to be partner, if Telecom wants to do it, if whoever wants to do it — we have a history of working with everybody," says Fellet.

"We view it as just one more way into the household.' Major telcos around the world are

also eyeing IPTV as a new revenue features such as time shifting. It is stream. Telecom last month formed a likely do this in partnership with Sky. video division to plan out its offerings. "It's a question of when and what, market in New Zealand anyway, so the

rather than if," says Philip King, general manager of video services. King says Telecom is not likely to

compete on full television services with Sky, but will rather look to complementary offerings such as downloadable movies and interactive ment for network giant Alcatel, says telcos worldwide are looking at IPTV services as replacement income for

declining traditional calling revenue. Most telcos are holding off on committing to plans until they see how AT&T, which is leading the way, does in the

United States later this year. While telcos' initial IPTV services may be complementary to existing "We've got a highly evolved pay-TV offerings from traditional television companies, the ultimate goal is full opportunity really is to do something competition with them, Heydon says. additive to what customers [already]

capability in that regard into what is

Geof Heydon, Asia-Pacific director

of innovation and market develop-

already a mature market."

ADSL2+ services start to set in.

Overall, the various forms of internet-related television and video will give viewers more options and could ultimately allow them to bypass networks completely, which could reduce the value of advertising space.

Advertisers face fight for viewers

Young and wealthy are already paying for ad-free television via the internet

BY MARTHA McKENZIE-MINIFIE MEDIA WRITER

ADVERTISERS will have to do more to seduce internet TV viewers by sponsoring shows and making commercials consumers actually want to watch

A predicted reversal of the age-old rule that advertising pays for TV is forcing the change. Overseas, people can download TV shows for free with ads or pay for ad-free programming. The first group shelling out for ad-

free TV are the young and wealthy viewers whom advertisers already find hard to reach.

Nielsen Media Research this week unveiled plans in the United States to measure TV viewing on the internet, mobile phones and other gadgets — a move that could dramatically change the way viewership figures are tallied and shift advertising spending.

The challenge for New Zealand advertisers will only increase once more broadcast platforms, such as internet and mobile, become available here, says media buyer Martin Gillman, Total Media's chief executive.

Instead of commercial breaks being dominant, expect to see more programme sponsorship and products being integrated into shows.

"We've moved from the old days of King expects the IPTV market to being flashers to being seducers," says really start rolling in mid-2007, once Gillman. "Instead of saying 'look, here I am' and you open your raincoat and bare all, it's more to do with how do we involve our potential customers with our products in a way that is positive." Gillman believes broadcast TV will

> remain dominant in the medium term and predicts a general shift towards consumers paying for content rather than advertisers. He compares the change to New Zealanders' growing acceptance of

pay-TV. "If you were talking 10 years ago and you said 'it will not be long before the All Blacks will only be seen [on TV] live on subscription TV' everyone would have said 'no, no, no, no, of

course it wouldn't [happen]'. But of course it has," says Gillman. "The consumer purchase will probably replace advertiser funding.' Michael Carney, media strategist

New Zealand homes have a television.

New Zealanders aged 14+ watch TV a week.

New Zealanders aged 14+ rented a DVD or video in the last three months.

was spent on television advertising last year

Sky TV subscribers. SOURCES: Roy Morgan International/ Advertising Standards Authority

for the advertising planning agency MediaCom, is setting up an internet site (www.tvme.co.nz) to direct New Zealanders to websites where they can download television.

Emerging television platforms are good for advertisers because audiences can be more closely targeted.

"If the website proprietors know enough about you and your interests, they can sell advertising related to you then you'll happily watch it.'

But Kevin Blight, chief executive of media buying agency Mitchell & Partners, says New Zealand's small population makes niche television advertising difficult.

"If you're thinking about a really niche market, 100,000 people or 50,000 people, and you're contacting them through this mechanism, then how much is it going to cost you to make the ad?"

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get in the home, not pretending there

isn't already a lot of choice out there,"

he says. "We have no presence in the

broadcast TV market today so it would

take a long time to build expertise and

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Brent King, Sir William Birch and Grant Baker advise that Viking Capital Limited's public offer of shares and warrants closes on Wednesday 21 June 2006.

Copies of the registered prospectus for the offer are available from sharebrokers or Viking's NZAX information portal on the NZAX website at www.nzx.com/market/security_details/by_ security?code=VIK &status=prelist.

Application has been made to NZX for permission to list the shares and warrants on the NZAX, and all requirements of NZX relating thereto that can be complied with on or before the date of the prospectus have been complied with However, NZX does not accept responsibility for any statement

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