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Tender Process by [Crowin Smith](#)

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SBS (Special Broadcast Service Corporation) has joined the tender process with a call for expressions of interest for the provision of SBS digital transmission services in Australia. Digital television is well and truly established around the world, yet few people really understand it.

The successful respondent will be expected to set up transmitters, operate and maintain the service and enter site sharing arrangements with the tower owners if necessary as well as provide 24 hour monitoring and reporting of the service for the term.

Digital television is an innovative service that represents a great leap in the advancement of television technology since the 1950s. What it does is allow other uses of the television spectrum. There are four different standards and the USA uses ATSC – Advanced Television System Committee. There are a number of different ways to receive digital television – the oldest and most well known is via an antenna, or aerial. Other more modern ways include digital cable and digital satellite.

Among the advantages of digital television over analog is the fact that digital channels take up much less bandwidth than analog channels. This means more channels in the same space and more high definition television.

One of the obvious but not thought about problems with the changeover from analog to digital television is the massive increase in waste. Most people need a new television set to convert to digital and the fact is there are literally millions of TV sets being discarded and creating their very own landfill issues. Some second hand shops are refusing to accept old working televisions simply because the cost of disposing of them is so high.

Between 2010 and 2013 Australia is switching to digital TV and this is a progressive move. Turning off the analog signals (meaning you won't be able to watch them on your non digital TV) will free up space for other applications and other services for the community. The move is known as the Switchover. Originally the switchover was intended to be complete by 2008 but got delayed by five years.

For more information on how the tender process works for this tender please go to the SBS website for more information.

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