

GOODBYE ANALOGUE TV

Big switch off soon



Analogue television is to be progressively phased out across the islands of Tenerife, La Gomera and El Hierro from March 10 and 11, and La Palma from March 1, a process which will be finalised by April 3 when the installation of terrestrial digital television (TDT) should be complete.

This final date has been delayed due to the complex terrain of the islands and the resulting problems of coverage. Also, individual island plans have had to be created. The director of the Canarian government's investigation and innovation agency (ACIISI) Juan Ruiz Alzola has guaranteed that all Canarian homes will be able to receive the new sig-

nal by April 3. If you watch local TV, now is the time, unless you have a modern TV which incorporates one, to buy a decoder (sintonizador/descodificadora) to enable you to receive TDT, a service which is totally free of charge, or you will have no local TV at all. They are freely available from most electrical stores and department stores with prices running upwards of €20. You will be able to get a good one with ample facilities for around €30. Your own or your community's exterior aerial may need to be repositioned slightly in order to receive the new signal. To help with this, you can check the location of your local transmitter online at www.tdt.es by typing in your postcode in the appropriate box, selecting your locality

from the pulldown menu and then clicking the box 'ver detalles...'. This will also show you which channels are available in your area.

At the moment, in most areas, there are approximately 23 TV channels and 15 radio stations available, and of course the picture and sound are of top digital quality. A good decoder will give you the opportunity to select your preferred language for programmes or films which are transmitted in original version. This means that there are several BBC, Channel 4, American or other series being shown on Spanish TV, or complete channels such as Disney which you can now watch in English. You can also choose your preferred language for subtitles - a great way to learn Spanish.

SPANAIR CRASH 2008

Crash relatives dispute report



Many Canarians lost their lives in the tragedy

The families of victims of the Spanair plane tragedy say the recently-published crash investigation report fails to address the full causes of the accident and incorrectly lays the blame on the pilots.

According to the relatives, proper account was not taken of a similar previous incident in June 2007 in Lanzarote when the same type of aircraft

almost crashed on take-off due to an identical instrument malfunction. A spokesman for the families said the fault of the mechanics who did not remedy a fault in a crucial switch earlier in the day of the Madrid crash had not been investigated properly. The switch had been deactivated and as a result did not send the proper warning to the Spanair pilots that the flaps had not deployed properly for take-off. "We

do not understand why the authorities have not taken this aspect further in the report. We know the pilots were at fault for not carrying out the proper checks but they were misled by the faulty switch" said the spokesman.

Almost 150 people, many of them Canarians, were killed when the plane crashed seconds after it took off from Barajas Airport in Madrid for Las Palmas.

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