

Digital TV: set-top boxes a 'waste of money'



By Duncan McLeod: @mcleodd

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M-Net believes South Africa would be far better off scrapping plans to build pricey set-top boxes for digital terrestrial television (DTT) and instead should use the money in other ways.

Karen Willenberg, the broadcaster's director of legal and regulatory affairs, says instead the country should consider the use of much cheaper "digital converters" - these cost R350 or less - rather than investing in complex set-top box technology she believes isn't necessary and could hold up further the already long-delayed digital migration process.

Rather, Willenberg says the country should move quickly to ensure the biggest benefit of migration - the freeing up of scarce radio frequency spectrum for telecommunications operators - is realised as soon as possible.

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