

## ENTERTAINMENT F1RS

THIRD ANNUAL REPORT 2008-09

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In every area of personal and corporate life, somebody's got to lead, somebody's got to show the way.

In media and entertainment, Wire and Wireless has taken on that responsibility, having revolutionised the way India looks at television.

A Zee network enterprise, Wire and Wireless reaches 107 cities across India through 400 centres, 4000 LCO partners, 73 analog and 5 digital headends. A diverse product offering puts the Company ahead of the competition - Analog and Digital cable television, Broadband, HITS Satellite Television and Local Television Channels. Not to mention, features such as Video-on-Demand, Pay per View, Electronic Programming Guide and Gaming via STB.

Wire and Wireless is a pioneer many times over. It is India's No .1 Cable Television Company. Largest MSO in the Cable Industry. First in Asia to launch Headend-in-the-Sky (HITS) technology.

A company of firsts. Not just first in entertainment, but also where entertainment comes first!

# Vision

To be India's pre-eminent Supplier of Television content to viewers belonging to all regions and linguistic denominations.

Harnessing the latest technology and offering the best available resources to provide television viewers world-class services backed by outstanding customer support.

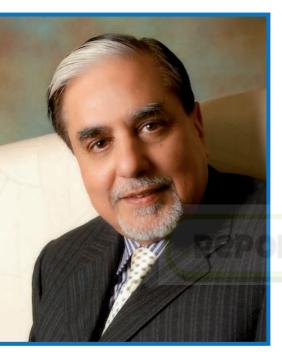
As a Corporate, we will be profitable, productive, creative, compliant, consistent and financially sound with care and concern for all stakeholders.

Wire and Wireless is a pioneer many times over. A company of firsts. Not just first in entertainment, but also where entertainment comes first.



## CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

"FY2009 saw improvements across a number of areas. It has been a very significant year for the industry."



Dear Shareholders,

Your Company is the country's leading provider of cable television services, offering a variety of channels to customers, both in the analog and digital formats. While the business was initially established in 1995 as Siticable, your Company, in its new *avataar* of Wire and Wireless India Limited (WWIL), has completed three years. Indian television market continues to grow and we believe that WWIL can play a major role in the future growth of Indian cable industry.

#### **Indian Media Sector**

India is one of the few countries across the globe where economic growth is led by domestic consumption. Given a very young population, growing consumer class, increasing spending power, and low media penetration, India continues to be an attractive market for media and entertainment services. The Indian Media and Entertainment industry has witnessed a strong growth in recent times and estimates suggest that the rate of expansion will accelerate and the industry will be worth over a trillion rupees in the next five years.

While the medium to long-term outlook remains very strong, there is a sense of caution that has set into the industry in recent times owing to the global economic slowdown. However, empirical data suggests that television consumption increases during recessionary periods and the cable industry is often much lesser affected as compared to other cyclical categories. Our belief is that the challenges posed by these times would see the emergence of new business models and would lead media companies to change, innovate and re-examine their existing strategy.

#### **Cable Services Industry**

The cable services industry in India has come a long way since the government opened the doors for private cable players in 1992. Since the exponential leap in the Indian economy in the last decade, the Indian cable television industry has become a large sector, and is amongst the largest in the world. India now has around 80 million cable and satellite homes, out of which a dominant 68 million are served by cable.

To meet the needs of a growing and ever evolving audience, the country has seen a proliferation of new television channels in all genres and

across several languages. This has led to higher demand for capacity in cable distribution and consequently, digitization of cable platforms has been the natural progression for the industry. I am happy to note the recent trend of voluntary digitization and the openness of local cable operators to adapt to newer technologies. To some extent, this has also been forced on the industry because of the competitive push of the Direct to Home (DTH) sector, and partly due to greater awareness of advantages of better infrastructure. Digital cable not only offers consumers excellent audiovideo capabilities but also has added features like two-way interactivity. The cable plant is the fattest pipe running into the consumer premises and once converted to digital offers the biggest bandwidth for all possible data, voice and video applications or triple play services. It has the added advantage of transparency, which benefits the entire television broadcasting value chain.

The television distribution industry is witnessing a big transformation led by technological changes, and changing consumer expectations. These changes are posing new challenges for the industry and also opening up new opportunities.

#### **WWIL Performance**

FY2009 saw improvements across a number of areas. It has been a very significant year for the industry. The year saw emergence of greater competition from DTH sector, with entry of new players. There was a much greater adoption of digital television, though cable industry lagged behind DTH in this area. WWIL focused on consolidating its operations during the year and



preparing for launch of Headend-inthe-Sky (HITS) technology for digital cable across some key cities.

In order to create a leaner, more focused organization capable of meeting the competitive needs of the market place, the Company embarked on a significant restructuring drive to optimise its workforce. This difficult but necessary action helped improve efficiencies. Through the year, WWIL has examined every opportunity to streamline operations, realign corporate and regional functions to reduce over head costs, increase focus and accountability of the Company's leadership team and improve performance of its core service lines. With the intention to synergize strengths of various departments and be closer to our customers - both broadcasters and consumers, WWIL has moved its Corporate Office from Mumbai to Noida effective from April 2009.

We also focused on technology initiatives to extend the reach and capacity of our networks. In a major initiative that has changed the landscape media distribution, of your Company is offering HITS, a satellite based delivery platform which delivers multi channel television signals to multi system operators (MSOs) and local cable operators (LCOs). WWIL is the first Company in Asia to undertake digitalisation and addressability in the cable sector by adopting HITS technology. HITS provides a complete array of digital video and audio programming needed for a comprehensive programme bouquet through cable and gives superior customer experience since the transmission is centralized, enabling the operator to maintain signal quality and content standard. Besides providing HITS in big cities and metros, your Company would be able to provide Digital Cable in smaller towns, cities and villages and is being offered to the customers in a phased manner across the country.

During the year, your Company re-launched SITI Network in Varanasi – The Holy City, in the state of Uttar Pradesh. The Company is offering complete array of cable television services-both analog and digital cable television, value-added services and HITS, for its customers and LCOs in Varanasi.

#### **Corporate Governance**

The Company's commitment to strong values and business ethics, coupled with its article of faith to augment shareholder value, is at the core of its Corporate Governance Policy, We believe that good governance is not just rule driven, but involves voluntary adoption of international best practices. This is done in the Company through ensuring transparency in corporate disclosures, high quality of accounting practices and adhering to the highest level of business ethics. To further improve our operating procedures and bring in the leading business practices, Wire and Wireless will be implementing SAP ERP System.

#### Looking ahead

Across the mature media markets of the world, digital cable as a delivery platform has been substantially on the rise, and is often preferred to other equivalent digital delivery platforms. The US and European markets are testament to the same. Cable penetration in the US accounts for over 70% of the market and is still growing, while in the European market, the digital cable market is almost twice as large as the next delivery platform.

We believe, digitization is the future of television industry in India and will define the content formats and viewership patterns of consumers in future. While the cable industry in India has been slow to convert its subscriber base from the current analog format to digital, the pace is expected to pick up in the coming years. It is estimated that in the next 5 years, pay TV homes would grow to over 115 million, thus indicating over a 50% growth. An estimated 54% of all Indian households will be Pay TV subscribers by 2012 from the current 35% penetration. Digital cable and HITS is expected to garner a large portion of these Pay TV subscribers. Given the low penetration of digital households within cable homes in the country, the opportunity that lies ahead for cable industry players is enormous.

Wire and Wireless, being the market leader in digital cable and first to offer HITS technology is expected to be in the forefront of the digital TV revolution. Your Company is gearing up to take advantage of this changing industry scenario. The unfolding opportunity coupled with our readiness to execute augurs well for your Company's future. We thank you for your continued support and the confidence you demonstrate through your continued investment.

#### Subhash Chandra Chairman

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- Wire and Wireless is India's largest Multi System
  Operator (MSO) in the cable industry.
- First MSO to launch most advanced Digital Television satellite based delivery platform-Headend-in-the-Sky (HITS)
- In the digital mode, Wire and Wireless Offers upto
  225 channels to its subscribers.
- Wire and Wireless has presence in 107 cities of India.
- Wire and Wireless operating network includes over
  4000 franchisee operators called LCOs.
- Wire and Wireless has 8 regional offices with over 500 employees.



#### WWIL: India's largest Multi System Operator in the cable industry











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## BOUQUET OF CHANNELS

#### **General Entertainment**

Zee TV Star Plus Sony Sahara One SAB Star One **DD-1** National Star Utsav Zoom 9X Colors **NDTV** Imagine **DD INDIA** BINDAS DD-2 Real TV **Hindi Movies** Zee Cinema

#### SET Max Star Gold Zee Action Zee Premier Sahara Filmy B4U Movies Zee Classic Zee Smile UTV Movies Hindi News

#### Zee News

Aai Tak **NDTV** India Star News India TV DD News DD Loksabha DD Rajyasabha E-24 Sahara Mumbai Aaj Tak Tej Total TV Live India IBN 7 VOI **English News NDTV 24X7** 

Headlines Today

#### Times Now **CNN IBN** CNN **BBC** World News X DD World Channel News Asia **Business News** Zee Business **CNBC** Awaaz CNBC TV 18 NDTV Profit **English Movies** Zee Studio Star Movies HBO PIX World Movies TCM **English Entertainment** AXN Star World Zee Cafe Life Style and Healthcare Zee Trendz FTV **Discovery** lifestyle Shakti TV NDTV Good Times NDTV Showbiz

#### **Foreign Channels**

DW TV5 Russia Today TV 5-Monde Nepal 1

#### **Sports Channels**

Zee Sports ESPN Star Sports Ten Sports (India) Neo Sports Neo Sports Plus DD Sports Star Cricket **Music Channels** Zee Music

ETC Channel V **MTV** India **B4U Music** Music India Play TV VH-1 Sur Sangeet Enter 10 9X Music **Educational / Science** Discoverv Animal Planet National Geographic **History Channel** Topper TV DD Gyandarshan-1 DD Gyandarshan-2 **Kids Channel** Cartoon Network Nickeldeon Hungama Pogo Animax Disnev **Toon Disney** Spacetoon **Regional Channels Bengali/ Oriya/ Assamese** Zee Bangla **ETV Bangla** 24 Ghanta DD 7 Bangla Tara Newz Sangeet Bangla DD Oriya ETV Oriva Star Ananda Akash Bangla Tara Music DD West Bengal Kolkata TV DD NE NE TV Marathi / Gujarati IBN – Lokmat Zee 24 Taas



Zee Marathi ETV Marathi DD Sahyadri Mi Marathi Zee Talkies **DD** Marathi Star Majha ETV Gujarati DD II - Gujarati Tamil Sun TV K TV Raj TV Raj Plus Jaya TV Star Vijay Sun News DD Podhigai Sun Music SS Music Kalingar TV Zee Tamil Chutti TV Jaya Plus Java Max Makkal TV Raj Music Telugu DD Saptagiri Zee Telugu Gemini Music Gemini TV Teia TV Gemini News Maa TV ETV ETV 2 TV 9 Telugu Vissa TV Adithya TV Teja News 24 Ghantalu Malayalam Surya TV Kiran TV Asianet Asianet News

**DD** Malayalam Kairali TV Amrita Asianet Plus Manorama News Malyalam News International India Vision Isai Aruvi Jeevan TV Kannada Zee Kannada Udava TV Udaya Movies ETV Kannada Udaya Varthegalu **DD** Chandana Udaya – 2 TV 9 Kannada DD 9 Kannada Punjabi / Hindi Zee Punjabi **ETC** Punjabi DD Punjabi MH 1 **DD** Bharti **DD INDIA** ETV UP ETV MP **ETV Bihar ETV** Rajasthan ETV Urdu DD Urdu Zee Chattisgarh **DD** Kashmir Mahua TV Time TV **Spiritual Channels** Zee Jagran Aastha Sanskar God TV Sadhana Miracle Net MH 1 Shraddha **Radio Programmes AIR Assamese AIR Bangla** 

AIR Gujarati AIR Hindi AIR Punjabi FM Gold **AIR Kannada AIR Kashmir AIR Malyalam AIR** Telugu AIR Marathi AIR Tamil FM Rainbow Bangalore AIR Urdu AIR Oriva AIR NE **AIR Ragam** AIR Vividh Bharti FM Gold Mumbai **FM Rainbow** FM Rainbow Chennai **Local Channels** SITI Delhi SITI Amritsar SITI Ludhiana SITI Chandigarh SITI Jallandhar SITI Hissar SITI Rohtak SITI Kanpur SITI Kolkata SITI Bangaluru SITI Kochi SITI Trivandrum SITI Filmy/ Filmi SITI Cinema SITI Music SITI Movies SITI Dharmik SITI Gurbani SITI Desi SITI Aradhana SITI Magicbox SITI Jukebox SITI Blockbuster SITI Text SITI Music SITI Telugu

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Ambala

Faridabad

**Bilaspur City** 

Shimla

Jalandhar

Amritsar

Ludhiana

Chandigarh

Graphical representation of map. Not to scale.

Hoogly

Midnapur

Durgapur Baharampur

98 99 100

Bhubneshwar

Angul Bhawaniputra

Bhadrak

Rourkela

Beawar

63 64

66

Ra

69

102 Nadia

103 Kolkata

104 Howrah