



## PRESS RELEASE

28<sup>th</sup> October, 2014

### **SIGNATURE OF AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN CANAL+ OVERSEAS AND THEMA**

CANAL+ OVERSEAS and THEMA announce the signature of an agreement for CANAL+ OVERSEAS to acquire a majority stake in the capital of THEMA.

THEMA, which was founded in 2005 by Francois Thiellet, is a company specializing in the distribution of generalist, specialist and ethnic television channels to cable, satellite and IPTV operators in France and internationally. THEMA also publishes the African fiction channel Nollywood TV, a leading francophone African channel, and distributes many ethnic multichannel packages to ISPs or operators, including Le Bouquet Africain.

In the context of this agreement, which will enable complementary know-how and skills to be combined, Francois Thiellet, THEMA's CEO, will continue to manage and develop THEMA's business with the support of his management committee.

Jacques du Puy, the CEO of CANAL+ OVERSEAS, said: *"The acquisition of the THEMA group will speed up our development strategy, particularly in Africa, and will also provide us with vital marketing and publishing know-how with regard to ethnic content."*

Francois Thiellet, the CEO of THEMA, added: *"We are proud and happy to be associated with CANAL+ OVERSEAS, whose resources and international presence will speed up THEMA's growth worldwide."*

## **About CANAL+ OVERSEAS**

CANAL+ OVERSEAS, which handles the CANAL+ Group's business internationally and in the French overseas territories, markets the pay-TV offers *LES CHAINES CANAL+* and CANALSAT, providing access to more than 200 channels, mainly in the French language.

It is the leading overseas territories broadcasting company, and covers the Caribbean (the French Antilles and Guyana), the Indian Ocean (Reunion, Mayotte and Mauritius) and the Pacific (New Caledonia, French Polynesia and Australia). With a presence in more than 30 Central and West African countries, CANAL+ OVERSEAS is the leading pay-TV operator in francophone Africa, particularly due to the eight subsidiaries it has established in that continent, including one in Madagascar. CANAL+ OVERSEAS is also established in Vietnam, with K+, a local and international multichannel satellite package created jointly with Vietnamese state television. Since April 2014, CANAL+ OVERSEAS has diversified its business by offering CANALBOX, providing internet and telephone services available in the Caribbean and in Reunion.

## **About THEMA**

THEMA was founded by Francois Thiellet in 2005. It now has four foreign subsidiaries and works with more than nine agencies in the main European markets.

The company represents a portfolio of nearly 100 channels and has formed solid relationships with the main pay-TV platforms in France, Europe, the Middle East, Afrique, Asia and North America.

THEMA publishes the Nollywood TV channel and a number of so-called "ethnic" multichannel packages: The African Multichannel Package, the Arabic Multichannel Package, the Indian Ocean Multichannel Package and the German Multichannel Package.

In April 2014, THEMA launched a new advertising business, THEMA Advertising, in France and in Africa.

For more information about THEMA and its portfolio of channels, visit [www.thematv.com](http://www.thematv.com).

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