

Digital Keystone, SCM bow OpenCable test platform
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Digital Keystone and **SCM Microsystems** have launched "HPNX," a new test and development platform designed to verify product compliance with **CableLabs'** OpenCable specifications.

The test platform, the companies said, will verify compliance of a variety of OpenCable host devices, including digital televisions and digital set-top boxes. OpenCable, which aims to create a retail market for consumer-side digital cable equipment, will separate the conditional access (CA) and encryption systems via the use of removable security modules. Digital cable boxes used in the U.S. today primarily use proprietary, embedded CA systems from **Scientific-Atlanta** and **Motorola Broadband**.

"With HPNX, operators, conditional access providers and consumer electronics companies can quickly and cost-effectively develop open standards-based solutions for the fast-moving U.S. digital television industry," claimed Colas Overkott, SCM's executive vice president, digital TV.

The HPNX platform is based on technology licensed from Digital Keystone. SCM, in turn, will manufacture and distribute the platform. Systems go for \$16,000, although final pricing is based on volume.

Other companies have recently stepped up with test platforms designed for OCAP (OpenCable Application Platform), a middleware spec for OpenCable-based devices. In April, **Strategy & Technology Ltd.** and UniSoft Corp. **inked a non-exclusive deal** with CableLabs to create a test environment for OCAP.