Preface

It is not so long ago that the second English edition of this book appeared. In many countries, the switch-over from analog to digital television has now been completed, especially in terrestrial television. Everyone is talking about high-definition TV - HDTV - which is supported by virtually every TV display on the market today. The reason that the HDTV supply chain is not as yet gapless is not to be found in the technology but only in the lack of available HD source material. However, this is expected to change from 2010 onward. The number of studios which are being re-equipped with the new technology is ever increasing. Suitable compression standards for HDTV have been around for years and there is now also sufficient bandwidth available with the second generation of DVB transmission standards.

In comparison with digital television, digital audio broadcasting - DAB - still has its problems. Although DAB is on the air in many countries, it is still largely unknown to the general public, Good old FM radio is still the Number One audio transmission medium. It will be interesting to find out what will happen in this respect in the next few years. Will DVB also "gobble up" DAB?

What is now the third edition of the English version has been updated further to match the facts of present conditions. This book contains all the modern source encoding standards for digital television and digital audio broadcasting. Nevertheless, one or the other areas will still seem to be slightly inadequate to the liking of some readers. As the author, may aim is not simply to copy standards - which I may even have misunderstood in one point or the other - as the standards themselves are publicly available and more or less comprehensible in their form although their interpretation sometimes presents problems. Rather, I am mainly concerned with passing on the knowledge I have actually acquired myself.

The fact that this book has now been published in four languages and thus has found unexpectedly wide circulation all over the world is my greatest compensation for all the work done since 2001. The depth of technical knowledge presented in many chapters would have been impossible to achieve without the numerous discussions with my colleagues from the Broadcasting Division at Rohde&Schwarz. Many more impulses also
came from many readers and participants in seminars, and my special
thanks are due to the team of my publishers, Springer Verlag and to my
translator, collaboration with whom had been outstanding.

Moosburg an der Isar, near Munich, August 2009

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