



highlights 2003

January 2003

Vox celebrates its 10th anniversary, having just completed the most successful year in its history.

American Idol 2 is launched in January 2003. The first episode attracts 26.5 million viewers – more than the final of the first series.

February 2003

CEO Didier Bellens announces his departure to become CEO of Belgacom, the Belgian state-owned telecoms group.

In the UK, Five appoints Jane Lighting to succeed Dawn Airey as CEO.

March 2003

We announce the appointment of Gerhard Zeiler as the new Chief Executive.

The 2500th episode of *Goede Tijden, Slechte Tijden* (*Good Times, Bad Times*) is shown on RTL 4 in the Netherlands. In Germany, RTL Television and teamWorx win five Grimme Awards.

April 2003

Télévie, the fundraising event supported by our Belgian and Luxembourg TV and radio companies, collects a record sum of €5.8 million for FNRS, the leukaemia charity.

May 2003

In France, RTL pays a special tribute to Georges Lang, the founder and presenter of the famous RTL music programme *Les Nocturnes* that celebrates its 30th anniversary.

Talkback's *Your Face or Mine* wins a Silver Rose and *Smack the Pony* a Bronze Rose at the Rose d'Or Festival in Montreux.

HMG is awarded a frequency for a new radio station, RTL FM, and improved coverage for Yorin FM.

June 2003

The final of RTL Klub's reality show *Való Világ 2* in Hungary achieves a record audience share of 52.1% of the target group.

Nicolas de Tavernost, Chairman of the Board of M6, is appointed to head the Association of Commercial Television (A.C.T.) in Europe.

July 2003

We reach an agreement with Planeta over the future corporate governance, management and shareholding structure of Antena 3.

Hit Radio 104.6 is again Berlin's number one radio station, according to the latest radio research.

August 2003

RTL Television announces the move from Cologne West to the Cologne Rhine Halls. The move is planned for 2008 and will unite RTL TV, RTL Creation, RTL Enterprises, RTL Newmedia, IP Deutschland and IP Newmedia under one roof.

Fons van Westerloo is appointed new CEO of HMG in the Netherlands after the departure of Dick van der Graaf.

September 2003

In Croatia, RTL Group obtains a nationwide licence for a free-to-air television channel to be launched in spring 2004.

RTL Television wins nine awards at the Deutscher Fernsehpreis, the most highly regarded TV awards in Germany.

October 2003

With the acquisition of the sports rights agency ISPR, Sportfive increases its rights portfolio in Germany and Europe.

FremantleMedia acquires Crackerjack, one of Australia's leading television production companies.

In the UK, the 20th anniversary live episode of FremantleMedia's long running police drama *The Bill* gains the drama's highest audience in over 3 years – 11 million viewers.

November 2003

RTL Radio in France remains market leader with a year-on-year increase of 0.4% in its audience share and 0.7% in its cumulative audience.

In Germany, RTL Television's annual 24-hour Spendenmarathon raises €4.5 million for children in need around the world.

In France, Disques d'Or, a special auction sale of golden records, collects €77,600 for the Soleil d'Enfance charity.

December 2003

TV channels around the world show *World Idol*, the spectacular two-part contest to find the ultimate pop idol from the winners of the first series. The winner is Norway's Kurt Nilsen.

January 2004

RTL Television celebrates its 20th anniversary with two tribute shows looking back at some of its past successes.

M6 takes up its pre-emption right in the thematic channel Paris Premiere and increases its stake to 100%.

February 2004

We launch Plug TV, our third TV channel in Belgium. Showing popular series, fiction, youth and reality genres, the new channel is targeted at 15 to 34 year-olds.

March 2004

RTL Group and Canal + announce the sale of their interests in Sportfive with RTL Group retaining 25%.

RTL Group also sells London based television facilities service company LPC.