



*Media release  
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### **Trackside Television unveils 15<sup>th</sup> birthday present**

Trackside Television celebrates 15 years of broadcasting this month and to mark the occasion Trackside has unveiled the first of six new digital outside broadcasting trucks to replace the networks existing analogue fleet, following a \$12.7 million investment by the New Zealand Racing Board.

During the new trucks first official outing Michael Stiassny, Chairman of the New Zealand Racing Board, said the investment in digital broadcasting technology is a big step for on-course production in the New Zealand racing industry.

“The move from analogue to digital technology will significantly enhance Trackside’s outside broadcast operation. The new wide screen digital format provides better picture quality and allows for picture analysis and live action replays, similar to that as seen in a rugby match with the third umpire.

“At the same time, the new digital platform will provide greater opportunities for Trackside to simulcast live New Zealand racing action to Australia and other countries wanting our racing product. This in turn will generate new revenue streams for the New Zealand Racing Board and the Codes.”

Specialist broadcast television equipment supplier Thomson Grass Valley (TGV) were commissioned by the New Zealand Racing Board late last year to design and build the six new digital outside broadcast trucks. The new trucks come in two sizes and house up to 14 cameras, vision and sound desks and recording equipment.

“The new vans will cover the width and breadth of New Zealand, covering more than 950 race meetings each year to bring Trackside viewers live racing action 12 hours per day, 363 days a year,” said Mr Stiassny.

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#### **About Trackside Television**

Trackside, formally known as Action TV, made its first live to air broadcast on the 6 November 1992. In the early days, Action TV was on air for 22 hours each week, covering live racing on Friday nights and Saturdays. Broadcasting hours were extended when Sunday racing was introduced to New Zealand on 22 November 1992.

The Trackside channel now broadcasts a mix of locally produced and internationally-sourced programming 24 hours a day, including The First Call,

The Ford Report, On The Bunny, The Box Seat, NZ Retro, Australian Racing Retro and live racing action from New Zealand and Australia.

Trackside Television is owned by the New Zealand Racing Board who operate the TAB and Radio Trackside.

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