

## TONY BALL JOINS PROVIDENCE AS A SENIOR ADVISOR

### **Kabel Deutschland Chairman Brings Exceptional Media Industry Experience and Operational Expertise**

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**Providence, RI (USA) and London (UK) – April 30, 2012** – Providence Equity Partners, the world’s leading global private equity firm focused on media, communications, education and information companies, today announced that Tony Ball has joined the firm as a Senior Advisor based in the firm’s London office. He will work with Providence on new investment opportunities and certain of the firm’s existing investments.

Mr. Ball has over 25 years of experience in the media industry, including serving in numerous senior leadership positions at major broadcast and telecommunications companies. He is currently Chairman of the Supervisory Board of Kabel Deutschland GmbH (KDG), Germany’s largest cable operator and a former Providence investment. Providence appointed Mr. Ball to the KDG Board in 2006 during the firm’s majority ownership of the company, and he played an essential role in the successful transformation of the company, helping to design and implement many key strategic initiatives, including introducing premium internet, telephony, and television services, executing a €1 billion network upgrade, developing sales, marketing and installation capabilities, and acquiring smaller regional cable operators.

“Tony has been critical to KDG’s success and an outstanding partner to Providence,” said John Hahn, a Managing Director at Providence and head of the firm’s investment activities in Europe. “He brings tremendous operational expertise and media industry insights and relationships that complement our own. We are delighted to welcome him to the Providence team and look forward to his contributions as we continue to identify new investment opportunities and support the growth of our existing portfolio companies.”

“I share Providence’s passion for building and supporting innovative media companies,” said Mr. Ball. “The firm’s commitment to the industry and high caliber expertise are important to me

as an operator and business partner. I look forward to contributing to Providence's success in the years ahead."

In addition to KDG, Mr. Ball also serves on the board of Providence portfolio company Grupo Corporativo Ono, the largest cable broadband service provider in Spain. Prior to joining KDG, Mr. Ball served from 1999 to 2003 as Chief Executive of BSkyB and led the company through the strongest period of growth in its history, doubling the number of subscribers and converting the entire base to digital. Previously, he served as Chief Executive Officer of FOX/LIBERTY Networks, which included the FX Networks, Fox SportsNet, and over twenty regional sports channels throughout the United States. He was also President of Fox Sports International, where he oversaw the creation and the operation of sports television businesses in North America, Latin America, Asia, and Australia. He also held senior positions at International Management Group (IMG), the global sports, fashion, and media business, and British Satellite Broadcasting Sports Channel, the sports affiliate to the British television company.

Mr. Ball is a director of BT Group plc., a board member of the Olympic Delivery Authority for the 2012 London Olympic Games, and Chairman of the Advisory Board Portland PR. He is also a Fellow of the Royal Television Society.

### **About Providence Equity Partners**

Providence Equity Partners is the leading global private equity firm specializing in equity investments in media, communications, education, and information companies around the world. The principals of Providence manage funds with over \$23 billion in equity commitments and have invested in more than 100 companies operating in over 20 countries since the firm's inception in 1989. Significant existing and prior investments include ABTL (Indus Towers), Altegrity, AutoTrader.com, Blackboard, Bresnan Communications, The Chernin Group, Com Hem, Digiturk, Education Management Corporation, eircom, Hulu, ikaSystems, Idea Cellular, Kabel Deutschland, NEW Asurion, Nextag, PanAmSat, ProSiebenSat.1, iQiyi, Study Group, TDC, TVB, UFO Moviez, Univision, VoiceStream Wireless, Warner Music Group, World Triathlon Corporation, Trilogy International Partners and Yankees Entertainment and Sports Network. Providence is headquartered in Providence, RI (USA) and also has offices in New York, London, Hong Kong, Beijing, and New Delhi. Visit [www.provequity.com](http://www.provequity.com) for more information.

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