

# Highlights

## **American Idol tops the charts again**

The phenomenal success of FremantleMedia's *American Idol* continued. The fourth series of the *Idols* format was the highest rated series in the USA in 2005, delivering more viewers than *ER*, *Lost* and *Desperate Housewives*. It achieved an average audience of 27 million and no fewer than 500 million phone votes were cast during the series. FremantleMedia North America has entered into a new agreement with FOX and 19 Entertainment that secures further seasons.



## **200,000+ subscribers for M6's mobile offer**

M6 continued to open up new sources of diversified revenue. In June 2005 it launched a mobile telephone service with Orange offering a range of benefits including reductions on audio and video products, concert tickets and music downloads. Six months after launch, M6 Mobile by Orange had attracted more than 200,000 subscribers – far ahead of the 100,000 target. A second package giving access to the channel M6 Music Hits was launched in November 2005.



# five

## **Full control of Five in the UK**

In September 2005 we completed the acquisition of the remaining 35.4% stake in Five held by UBM. This takes RTL Group's ownership of the UK's fastest growing terrestrial TV channel to 100%.

Five is planning to launch new channels to create a multi-channel presence. In November 2005 it reached an agreement to take a strategic investment in Top Up TV, which offers subscription services for UK digital viewers on the Freeview platform. RTL Group's investment will enable both parties to explore and develop free and pay services.

## A foothold in Russia

We strengthened our presence in Central and Eastern Europe with our first investment in Russia's growing TV market. In October 2005 we completed the acquisition of a 30% stake in the television and production group REN TV. RTL Group will be actively involved in developing the REN TV network and is cooperating closely with the other shareholders, Severstal-Group and Surgutneftegaz.



## Further investment in Portugal

We made two further acquisitions of shares in Grupo Media Capital during the year, which took our strategic holding from 11.6% at the start of 2005 to 33% by the year end. Grupo Media Capital is the leading television broadcaster in Portugal, measured by both net advertising revenue and audience shares. In 2005 it became for the first time ever the leading channel in terms of total audience and also increased its leadership position in prime-time audience share. Grupo Media Capital is also a significant player in radio, outdoor advertising, internet and magazine publishing.



## 11 million+ viewers for Die Sturmflut

The two-part TV movie *Die Sturmflut* (Stormtide) was an enormous success for RTL Television in Germany when it aired in February 2006. The first part was watched by about 11.6 million viewers, a market share of 38.9% of the target group of 14 to 49 year-olds, and the second part was close behind with 11.2 million viewers. *Die Sturmflut* was produced by the FremantleMedia company teamWorx and is RTL Television's biggest budget TV movie to date. It stars such leading German actors as Nadja Uhl, Benno Fürmann, Jan Josef Liefers, Heiner Lauterbach and Natalia Wörner.