

Press Release

# **Corint Media: Coexistence of collective rights management and Google News Showcase starts successfully**

First publishers are using parallel participation in Google News Showcase to continue to manage their press publishers' right through Corint Media. Other publishers are signalling their interest in bringing their rights to Corint Media for the first time or again. This strengthens the joint enforcement before the German arbitration board.

**Berlin, 15 January 2024** The solution developed by Corint Media for participation in Google News Showcase with simultaneous exercise of press publishers' right by Corint Media has been very well received by many publishers. Some publishers represented by Corint Media have already signed a contract with Google to participate in Showcase. At the same time, several publishers who are already participating in Google News Showcase have signalled their interest in having the neighbouring right administered by Corint Media. In individual cases, "Extended News Previews" contracts concluded with Google, which include the licensing of press publishers' rights, would have to be cancelled or not extended.

The solution developed by Corint Media in autumn 2023 and presented at the end of the year means that interested press publishers will in future be able to individually agree to the use of their rights relating to the Google News Showcase product - while continuing to exercise their press publishers' right via Corint Media. This was made possible, among other things, by the investigation of Showcase by the German Federal Cartel Office. In its final report, the Federal Cartel Office declared that the Google product Showcase should not hinder the enforcement of press neighbouring rights.

The importance of the collective enforcement of press publishers' rights is currently more evident than ever with the cancellation of Facebook News. Meta terminated its Facebook News product in December last year. This also means the end of remuneration payments for participating publishers. However, the social networks belonging to Meta, such as Instagram and Facebook, continue to use news content - as do the other big tech companies. The shutdown of Facebook News shows how unsustainable individual contracts with Big Tech companies for the use of press content are. In a corresponding market environment, only agreements based on binding legal foundations like copyright law are reliable and therefore leading to sustainable revenue. The enforcement of appropriate remuneration for the ongoing use of content by search engines, aggregators or social networks - and in future also artificial intelligence applications - will therefore continue to be of crucial importance for the creation of a further source of income for press publishers.

**Dr Christine Jury-Fischer**, Managing Director of Corint Media: *"We are delighted that the solution provided has been accepted by the market and that existing payment asymmetries created can be eliminated in future. The enforcement of press publishers' rights will enter a decisive phase in 2024. The market has extensively recognised that the payments offered by Google for the ancillary copyright are not even remotely appropriate. It is obvious that publishers must ensure appropriate pricing for their right with the help of independent bodies, otherwise they will remain "stuck" at the abusively low level of remuneration for Extended News Previews (ENP) payments dictated by Google. This would not only be bad for the smaller publishers affected by digital disruption, but also for the big players in the industry, as the already low showcase payments can evaporate at any time - as we have just seen with Facebook News. We will therefore continue to advocate resolutely before the arbitration board to ensure that the added value generated by Google and other tech platforms through the use of publishing content is appropriately priced."*

### **About Corint Media**

Corint Media, based in Berlin, is a European company in the private media industry. It represents the copyrights and neighbouring rights of almost all German and several international private television and radio broadcasters as well as numerous press publishers.

The media companies represented by Corint Media include TV stations such as Sat.1, ProSieben, RTL, WELT, SPORT1, CNBC, Eurosport, VOX and CNN, radio stations such as ANTENNE BAYERN, radio ffn, Klassik Radio, Radio Hamburg, Hit Radio-FFH, RADIO PSR, R.SH, RPR1 and RTL RADIO, as well as press publishers such as Axel Springer, Verlagsgesellschaft Madsack, Mediengruppe Pressedruck, Aschendorff Mediengruppe, Rheinische Post Mediengruppe, sh:z Schleswig-Holsteinischer Zeitungsverlag and Badischer Verlag.

Corint Media is one of 13 authorised collecting societies in Germany and is under the supervision of the German Patent and Trade Mark Office (DPMA).

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