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FRIDAY FOCUS

Two tribes go to war

Sony and Toshiba are squaring up to decide who will win the format fight for the next generation of DVDs, but will consumers be the ultimate casualties?

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ROUNDUPS

In the papers 1 February

Wednesday, February 01 2006

by **Cliff Hutton**

*Google denies considering a bid for Napster | Publishers to challenge internet copyright breaches*

The Irish Times reports that, in the aftermath of the fallout over **Google's** decision to bow to Chinese censorship demands, **Microsoft** has modified its stance on how it offers services such as web searches, e-mail and blogs in foreign countries. The software giant believes that these changes will enable it to operate with greater transparency and responsibility. Microsoft said it would remove web content or hand over information only when required to do so by a legally binding notice.

Latest ENN headlines

**In the papers 1 February  
 For the record 31 January  
 India and China present new  
 challenges for Ireland**

The same paper reports that **Enterprise Ireland** and Dublin technology start-up company **SoftEdge Systems** are among the first beneficiaries of a programme that allows governments and small-to-medium enterprises (SMEs) to commercialise technologies that Microsoft has developed but will not market itself. Read more on this story as reported by [ElectricNews.net](#) on Tuesday.

Also in the Irish Times is a report that mobile phone company **Getmobile Europe** saw its share price rise by 12.5 percent on Tuesday after it issued a positive trading statement. Its German subsidiary, Getmobile AG, anticipates that its earnings will be about 20 percent up on the EUR3.97 million it recorded in 2004.

The paper also reports that Ireland is facing increasing competition for high-tech investment from emerging economies in Europe and Asia, according to a Forfas report. Read the full story as reported by [ElectricNews.net](#).

The Irish Independent reports that European publishers of newspapers, magazines and books have joined forces to challenge "exploitation of content" by search engines without fair compensation for copyright owners. A task force led by the **World Association of Newspapers** (WAN) will examine the options open to publishers seeking to assert issues of copyright

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and brand infringement.

Also in the Irish Independent is a report that the **Department of Communications** has launched a discussion paper on broadband demand in Ireland, as noted by [ElectricNews.net](#).

The Irish Examiner reports that **Google** on Tuesday denied it was considering a bid for **Napster**, leading to shares of the digital music service to fall back from gains of as much as 60 percent. Napster claims to have about 500,000 subscribers, making it a distant third to dominant music service **Apple** iTunes and **RealNetworks'** Rhapsody. Napster showed a net loss of USD13.6 million in its September quarter.

The Financial Times records that **AT&T**, the recently renamed US telecoms group, significantly raised its estimates of savings and synergies generated by its acquisition late last year of the old AT&T business, and said it expected to record double-digit earnings growth over the next three years.

The same paper also covers **Microsoft's** call for internet companies to adopt a common approach to dealing with official publication restrictions in China and elsewhere.

The Wall Street Journal reports that **Cable & Wireless** group chief executive Francesco Caio will step down as part of a reorganisation and warned that earnings at its UK business will stagnate during fiscal 2007. In London, C&W's shares lost 11 percent following the news.

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