

GS Group unveiled its first-ever HD set-top boxes with embedded solid-state drive

The GS Group holding company has introduced two new twin-tuner digital TV set-top boxes, GS B531M and GS B532M, that support HDTV and have an embedded solid-state drive. The set-top boxes have similar features, but are designed for different user groups: the GS B531M is designed for subscribers of the Tricolor TV digital television operator who participate in the equipment exchange program, while the GS B532M is designed for new subscribers.

The key difference between the new GS B531M and GS B532M set-top boxes and General Satellite devices of previous generations is the built-in solid-state drive. This solution is used for the first time. The 8 GB memory permits downloading movies and shows (PushVOD) from the new-film viewing service, "Kinozaly.Tricolor" for viewing at any time. The internal memory also makes it possible, with no need to connect an additional USB drive, to record video content (PVR, personal video recorder function), pause the show or movie, or rewind the recording to go back to an interesting moment (TimeShift function). Tricolor TV subscribers can also use the electronic program guide (EPG) to navigate through the content, as well as teletext, subtitling, timers, and games. The Tricolor TV Magazine application opens access to the materials of the like-named magazine to TV viewers. The Gallery application allows viewing JPG, BMP, PNG files on the TV screen from external media.

Both set-top boxes are designed on the basis of the modern powerful MStar K5 microprocessor and a coprocessor developed by GS Group. The devices are equipped with two DVB-S/DVB-S2 tuners. This means the user can watch video content on two screens at the same time: one tuner broadcasts a TV program on the TV screen, the other one — to the second TV screen or any mobile device. To watch the programs on a tablet or smartphone, one has to connect the set-top box to the Wi-Fi router within the home network. The owners of a client set-top box under the General Satellite brand can watch video content on a second TV screen as well.

“The new modern devices under the General Satellite brand with its internal memory make television more of a personalized experience, allowing users to rank their TV content and create a program schedule according to their own preferences. GS Group strives to provide TV viewers all over Russia with the most advanced equipment for HDTV watching” — Andrew Bezrukov, Director for Strategic Marketing of GS Group.

Subscribers of Tricolor TV can purchase the GS B531M set-top box at a discounted price by exchanging their old SD-device under the trade-in program. The GS B532M is also available at official dealers of the General Satellite equipment and Tricolor TV satellite television services.

