

Sinclair Reports Record 4th Quarter Results; Pro Forma Revenue Up 7%, Pro Forma BCF Up 11%

BALTIMORE, Feb. 9 /PRNewswire/ -- Sinclair Broadcast Group, Inc. (Nasdaq: SBGI)(the "Company") reported record net revenue, broadcast cash flow and after-tax cash flow for the quarter and year ended December 31, 1997. The record level of performance resulted from strong revenue growth at the Company's core stations as well as from the Company's acquisition program.

Total revenues increased to \$152.1 million for the three months ended December 31, 1997, from \$141.3 million for the three months ended December 31, 1996, or 7.6%. Broadcast cash flow grew 12.8% to \$80.5 million in the fourth quarter. After tax cash flow per share rose 25.8% to \$1.17 for the fourth quarter versus the same period a year ago. After tax cash flow per share benefited from the carry-back of certain net operating losses totaling \$10.6 million, or \$0.26 per share. These increases in total revenues, broadcast cash flow and after tax cash flow per share were primarily the result of growth in television and radio revenue and broadcast cash flow on a same station basis and the acquisition of KUPN-TV, Las Vegas.

Total revenues increased to \$516.4 million for the year ended December 31, 1997, from \$378.5 million for the year ended December 31, 1996 or 36.4%. Broadcast cash flow grew 28.6% to \$243.4 million during the year. After tax cash flow per share rose 26.6% to \$2.62 during the year versus the same period a year ago. After tax cash flow per share benefited from the carry-back of certain net operating losses totaling \$10.6 million, or \$0.26 per share. These increases in total revenues, broadcast cash flow and after tax cash flow per share were primarily the result of growth in television and radio revenue and broadcast cash flow on a same station basis and the acquisition of KUPN-TV, Las Vegas.

David Amy, Chief Financial Officer, said, "Solid revenue growth and another successful quarter of cost containment led to an increase in pro forma revenues of 7% and an increase in pro forma broadcast cash flow of 11%. Sinclair's revenue growth over 1996 came despite having to replace 3 percentage points of revenue from 1996 political campaigns. The Sinclair Radio Division closed out a tremendous year with 16% net broadcast revenue growth and 19% broadcast cash flow growth. Our overall pro forma broadcast cash flow margin rose 2 percentage points for the quarter and for the year rose nearly 3 points to 51.7%."

Amy also noted, "Currently, both our local and national advertising paces in the first quarter continue to be on track resulting in total revenues pacing 8% ahead of last year."

The Company's results included an extraordinary item during the quarter which resulted from the redemption of \$98.1 million of the Company's 10% Senior Subordinated Notes due 2003 (the "10% Notes"), representing virtually all of those Notes. The Company incurred \$10.1 million of expenses relating to the redemption, including an \$8.1 million redemption premium and \$2.0 million of unamortized debt acquisition costs. The tax benefit relating to these expenses was \$4.0 million, resulting in an extraordinary item net of tax benefit of \$6.1 million.

The Company increased its total debt in the fourth quarter to \$1,080.7 million from \$939.2 million largely because of the successful issuance by Sinclair during the quarter of \$250 million of 8-3/4% Senior Subordinated Notes due 2007 (the "8-3/4% Notes"), offset by the redemption of the 10% Notes. As of December 31, 1997, the Company had cash and cash equivalents of \$139.3 million, primarily representing the proceeds of the 8-3/4% Notes net of the redemption price of the 10% Notes. Capital expenditures during the fourth quarter totaled \$6.2 million.

Sinclair Broadcast Group, Inc. is one of the nation's largest broadcast groups. Sinclair owns and/or provides programming services or has agreements

to acquire 42 television stations in 30 separate markets, and owns, provides sales and programming services to, or has agreements or options to acquire, 58 radio stations in 11 separate markets. Sinclair's television group will reach approximately 19.2% of U.S. television households upon the closing of pending acquisitions and includes ABC, CBS, FOX, NBC, WB, and UPN affiliates. Sinclair's radio group is one of the top ten groups in the United States.

HISTORICAL FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS
(Dollars in Thousands except for per share data)

	Three Months			Twelve Months		
	Ended December 31,			Ended December 31,		
	1997	1996	Incr. %	1997	1996	Incr. %
Net broadcast revenues	\$138,200	\$127,107	8.7	\$471,228	\$346,459	36.0
Total revenues	152,118	141,299	7.7	516,435	378,488	36.4
Broadcast cash flow	80,469	71,361	12.8	243,306	189,216	28.6
Adjusted EBITDA	76,509	68,452	11.8	229,000	180,272	27.0
After tax cash flow	50,878	36,389	39.8	104,884	77,484	35.4
Program contract payments	12,925	11,150	15.9	51,059	30,451	67.7
Corporate expense	3,960	2,909	36.1	14,406	8,944	61.1
Net income (loss) before extraordinary item	1,425	2,948	(51.7)	(4,496)	1,131	N.M.
Net income (loss)	(4,645)	2,948	N.M.	(10,566)	1,131	N.M.
Net income (loss) available to common shareholders	\$(7,233)	\$2,948	N.M.	\$(13,329)	\$1,131	N.M.
Deferred tax provision	25,333	7,583	234.1	20,582	2,330	783.3
Per share data:						
Diluted EPS, before extraordinary item	\$(0.03)	\$(0.08)	N.M.	\$(0.20)	\$0.03	N.M.
Diluted EPS	\$(0.19)	\$(0.08)	N.M.	\$(0.37)	\$0.03	N.M.
After tax cash flow per share	\$1.17	\$.93	25.8	\$2.62	\$2.07	26.6

N.M. - Not Meaningful

Notes:

The definitions used for the terms "Broadcast Cash Flow" and "Adjusted EBITDA" conform to those used in the Company's prospectus filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on December 12, 1997 pursuant to rule 424(b)(5).

"After tax cash flow" is defined as net income (loss) available to common shareholders plus extraordinary items (before the effect of related tax benefits), special bonuses paid to executive officers, stock-based compensation, depreciation and amortization (excluding film amortization) plus or minus the deferred provision/benefit for income taxes. After tax cash flow is presented here not as a measure of operating results and does not purport to represent cash provided by operating activities. After tax cash flow should not be considered in isolation or as a substitute for measures of performance prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

"After tax cash flow per share" is defined as after tax cash flow divided by weighted average common and common equivalent shares outstanding.

Forward-Looking Statements

The matters discussed in this press release include forward-looking statements. In addition, when used in this press release, the words "intends to," "believes," "anticipates," "expects" and similar expressions are intended to identify forward-looking statements. Such statements are subject to a number of risks and uncertainties. Actual results in the future could differ materially and adversely from those described in the forward-looking statements as a result of various important factors, including the impact of changes in national and regional economies, successful integration of acquired television and radio stations (including achievement of synergies and cost reductions), pricing fluctuations in local and national advertising, volatility in programming costs, the availability of suitable acquisitions on acceptable terms and the other risk factors set forth in the Company's prospectus filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on December 12, 1997, pursuant to rule 424(b)(5). The Company undertakes no obligation to publicly release the result of any revisions to these forward-looking statements that may be made to reflect any future events or circumstances.

SINCLAIR BROADCAST GROUP, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS
(in thousands except per share data)

	Three Months Ended December 31,		Twelve Months Ended December 31,	
	1997	1996	1997	1996
REVENUES:				
Station broadcast revenues, net of agency commissions	\$138,200	127,107	\$471,228	\$346,459
Revenues realized from barter arrangements	13,918	14,192	45,207	32,029
Net revenues	152,118	141,299	516,435	378,488
OPERATING EXPENSES:				
Program and production Selling, general and administrative	23,402	23,650	92,178	66,652
Expenses realized from barter arrangements	27,447	26,311	106,084	75,924
Amortization of program contract costs and net realizable value adjustments	11,835	11,736	38,114	25,189
Depreciation and amortization of property and equipment	19,221	13,447	66,290	47,797
Amortization of acquired intangible broadcasting assets and other assets	5,254	4,735	18,040	11,711
Stock-based compensation	16,123	17,964	67,840	58,530
Amortization of excess syndicated programming	1,286	116	1,636	739
Total operating expenses	---	3,043	---	3,043
Broadcast operating income	104,568	101,002	390,182	289,585
OTHER INCOME (EXPENSE)				
Interest expense	47,550	40,297	126,253	88,903
Subsidiary trust minority interest expense	(21,051)	(27,667)	(98,393)	(84,314)
Interest income	(5,748)	---	(18,600)	---
Other income (expense)	810	298	2,174	3,136
Total other income/(expense)	18	(644)	54	342
	(25,971)	(28,013)	(114,765)	(80,836)

Income before income tax provision	21,579	12,284	11,488	8,067
Income tax provision	20,154	9,336	15,984	6,936
Net income (loss) before extraordinary item	1,425	2,948	(4,496)	1,131
Extraordinary item, net	(6,070)	---	(6,070)	---
Preferred stock dividends payable	2,588	---	2,763	---
Net income (loss) available to common shareholders	\$(7,233)	\$2,948	\$(13,329)	\$1,131
BASIC EARNINGS PER SHARE				
Income (loss) per share before extraordinary item	\$(0.03)	\$0.08	\$(0.20)	\$0.03
Net income (loss) per share	(0.19)	0.08	(0.37)	0.03
Weighted average shares outstanding	39,080	34,741	35,951	34,748
DILUTED EARNINGS PER SHARE				
Income (loss) per share before extraordinary item	\$(0.03)	\$0.08	\$(0.20)	\$0.03
Net income (loss) per share	(0.19)	0.08	(0.37)	0.03
Weighted average shares outstanding	43,418	38,984	40,078	37,381

SOURCE Sinclair Broadcast Group, Inc.

CONTACT: David Amy, Chief Financial Officer, or Patrick Talamantes, Dir. of Corporate Finance of Sinclair Broadcast Group, 410-467-5005
 CNOC: <http://www.prnewswire.com> or fax, 800-758-5804, ext. 110203