

# ECHOS 2009

Entertainment & Tech News



This week French politicians reject a new 'three strikes and your out' bill to tackle illegal downloading, a new battery for your phone and laptop might be able to fully charge in 20 seconds and finally Micky 'The Wrestler' Rourke is to star in Ironman 2. Read on.....



## NewsBytes

French politicians have rejected a bill which proposed that people who are caught downloading music illegally three times should be cut off from the internet. The new legislation, backed by President Nicolas Sarkozy, would have set a tough global precedent in cracking down on internet piracy. The music industry has been calling for stricter laws as revenues have fallen. Ministers said an amended version of the bill would go before parliament in the next few weeks. The new legislation would have operated under the now infamous "three strikes" system. A new state agency would first send illegal file sharers a warning e-mail, then a letter, and finally cut off their connection for a year if they were caught a third time. It was backed by both the film and record industries. But some consumer groups had warned that the wrong people might be punished should hackers hijack their computers' identity, and that the scheme amounted to state surveillance. The socialist parliamentarian Patrick Bloche said the bill was "very dangerous, useless, inefficient, and very risky for us citizens." Although the legislation was approved by the Senate, France's upper house, it was defeated in a vote of the National Assembly. Two members of Mr Sarkozy's majority government joined the socialist opposition in voting against the bill, in a protest to an amendment which would have made users who had been banned, continue to pay their internet bills. The French government will now have to try to re-introduce the legislation to parliament later this year.



## Quick Charge



A new manufacturing method for lithium-ion batteries could lead to smaller, lighter batteries that could be charged in just seconds. Batteries that discharge just as quickly would be useful for electric and hybrid cars, where a quick jolt of charge is needed for acceleration. This new approach only requires simple changes to the production process of a well-known material. Because of the electronic punch that they pack, lithium-ion batteries

are the most common rechargeable batteries found in consumer electronics, such as laptops. However, they take a long time to charge; researchers have assumed until recently that there was a speed limit on how fast they could be charged. A prototype battery made using the new technique could be charged in less than 20 seconds - in comparison to the normal six minutes. Most of the commercial batteries use a material made up of lithium and cobalt, but lithium iron phosphate does not suffer from overheating - something that has affected laptop and mp3 player batteries in a number of incidents. Hybrid cars should benefit from a quick discharge as much as a quick charge. Even though it is cheap, lithium iron phosphate has until now received very little attention as the lithium cobalt batteries can store slightly more charge for a given weight. What is more, because there are few changes to the standard manufacturing process it is believed that the new battery material could make it to market within two to three years.



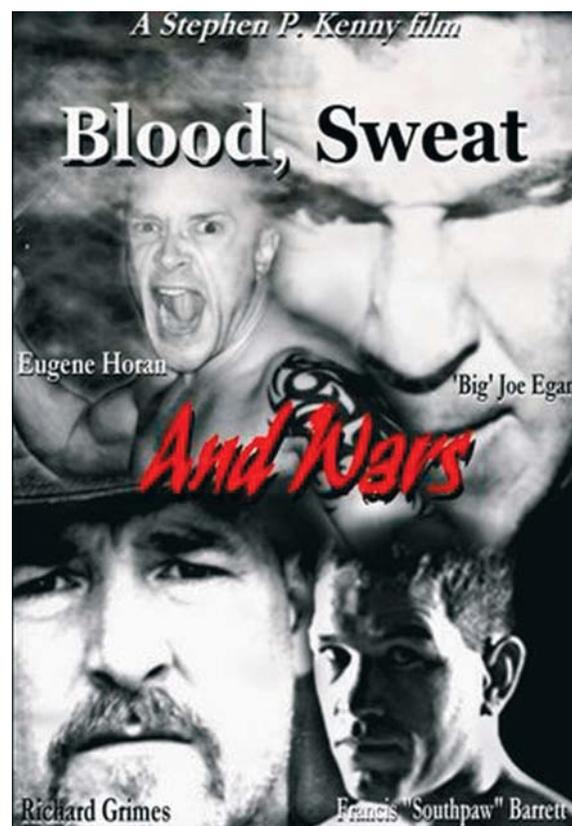
## Rourke for Ironman 2

Oscar-nominated actor Mickey Rourke is to star in the sequel to comic book film Iron Man, according to recent reports. The Wrestler star will play a Russian villain called Whiplash, industry newspaper Variety said. The 56-year-old's involvement had been mooted since January, after lead star Robert Downey Jr asked him to be in the film. Marvel Entertainment would not confirm Rourke's involvement in the film, which is now set to be

released in May 2010. Negotiations to sign Rourke to the film took so long as Marvel reportedly only offered the star \$250,000 for the role, Variety said. He is poised to join Downey Jr, Sam Rockwell and Samuel L Jackson in the movie, along with Scarlett Johansson, who is reportedly replacing British actress Emily Blunt as superspy Black Widow. Rourke sealed his comeback king status after winning a string of awards including a Golden Globe and Bafta for his portrayal of Randy "The Ram" Robinson in The Wrestler. Iron Man was one of the biggest hit films of 2008, taking more than \$300m in the US alone



## Producers Seek Talented Musicians



The producers behind the eagerly awaited film "Blood, Sweat and Wars" which stars a host of well known celebrities including Danny Dyer (Football Factory), Eugene Horan (Ghostwood), Billy Murray (Essex Boys) and boxing stars Ricky Hatton, Francie Barrett and Joe Egan, are seeking talented musicians to battle it out for four weeks to have its song on the film which will be released in Irish cinemas in 2010 and is awaiting a US release.

The film is based on the travellers in the West of Ireland and their underground dealings in drugs, bare-knuckle fighting and the awful sex trade of young boys. The producers are doing a nationwide search for bands, solo artists of all genres and will be picking the

top 30 to perform in four heats in Galway music venue The Quays, and with one big final showdown between five of the best.

The "Battle of the Best" will be judged by music producer Vinnie Kilduff who has worked with the likes of U2 and Mundy. Anyone interested are asked to email [OneShotFilms2009@gmail.com](mailto:OneShotFilms2009@gmail.com) for the application form and they can also visit the Bebo site [www.Bebo.com/FilmSoundtrackChance](http://www.Bebo.com/FilmSoundtrackChance).

The winners of the competition will walk away with free recording time in a professional studio, their music video being made by One Shot Films and off course, hearing their song on the big silver screen.

## Feirm Factor

A nationwide Search has begun once again to seek out twelve farmers to compete head to head for a chance of winning a brand new Land Rover Discovery. TG4 has once again commissioned Good Company Productions to produce a new ten part television series, to be filmed over the Summer of 2009 and to be broadcast in Spring 2010. We're looking for Twelve

Farmers, aged 18+, male and female, who will showcase the best of Irish farming today. The contestants will be put through a series of farming related tasks and 'wider-world' challenges, and the winner will drive away in a brand new Land Rover Discovery. Do you think you have what it takes to be Ireland's Finest Farmer? Do you have the Feirm Factor...?

If so contact Brian @ Good Company Productions on 085 1359 222 or email [feirmfactor@gmail.com](mailto:feirmfactor@gmail.com) or complete an application form online on the TG4 website [www.tg4.ie/feirmfactor](http://www.tg4.ie/feirmfactor). 'Cúpla focail' would be a bonus, but fluency in Irish is not essential. Closing date for applications, 5pm, Monday 25th May 2009

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