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Exclusive: Qtrax P2P Music Service Announces Major Publishing Deals

By Eliot Van Buskirk [✉](#) March 03, 2008 | 4:53:23 PM Categories: [Digital Music News](#)

The "world's first free, legal P2P service," [Qtrax](#), has deals with EMI Publishing, Sony/ATV Music Publishing and [TVT Records](#). Listening Post has learned.



Qtrax [raised quite the furor in January](#) with its announcement of a free, legal, ad-supported P2P service, after reporters realized that the company didn't have active deals with enough labels and publishers to offer any songs. (We hear the *Los Angeles Times* had to stop its presses over the confusion.)

These new deals indicate Qtrax could eventually make good on its ambitious promise to offer all of the music available on P2P networks as free, legal downloads.

Downloads will be wrapped by Microsoft subscription DRM, as one might expect, considering that the plan is to offer unlimited major label music -- including everything that's available on LimeWire -- for free. Qtrax CEO Allan Klepfisz said plans are on hold to offer the music in an iPod-compatible format, and the company will instead focus for the moment on getting licensing deals in place.

In order to offer its service in the United States, Qtrax needs deals with both labels and with publishers, so the EMI and Sony/ATV publishing deals don't mean that music will be available yet. However, the deals show that Qtrax has made significant inroads with certain elements in the music industry at large.

The Sony/ATV deal represents a renewed commitment from the publisher. Martin Bandier, chairman and CEO of Sony/ATV, said: