



Small-scale DAB – global development and implementation

Dr Lawrie Hallett, University of Bedfordshire for WorldDAB

Project framework – June 2023

About Dr Lawrie Hallett

Dr Lawrie Hallett is based at the University of Bedfordshire, where he teaches and researches, radio, audio and international development. He is also the Operations Director of Future Digital Norfolk Limited, which has been broadcasting a Small-Scale DAB service to the Greater Norwich area of East Anglia since 2015. With a background in broadcast journalism and later broadcast engineering, he is also a former Senior Radio Executive at Ofcom in London. He continues to work as an independent consultant and has been writing about the broadcast radio industry since the 1990s.

A full academic biography is available here:

<https://www.beds.ac.uk/howtoapply/departments/arts-and-creative-industries/staff/lawrie-hallett/>

About WorldDAB

WorldDAB is the global industry forum for DAB digital radio. It facilitates the adoption and implementation of broadcast digital radio based on DAB, the digital radio standard adopted by broadcasters across Europe, Asia Pacific and beyond. WorldDAB delivers tailored solutions and advice on all aspects of the switch from analogue to digital radio including regulation, licensing, technical trials, network build out, marketing and production of new digital radio content.

<https://www.worlddab.org/>

About the project

Reflecting increasing interest in the small-scale DAB approach, WorldDAB has commissioned Dr Lawrie Hallett of the University of Bedfordshire to compile an independent report on the development and implementation of small-scale DAB in markets around the world.

The report seeks to document for the first time the global development of this innovative approach to DAB transmission, and to analyse the different current implementations, including technical, financial and regulatory models. It may also offer for consideration possible next steps to support its continued growth. This initial project framework document is designed to set out the initial approach to the topics to be covered by the report, and a timeline for delivery.

The report

Executive summary

Scope

- What does this report cover?
- What does it exclude?

Introduction

- What's the objective?
- The expansion of DAB delivery
- The creation of a toolkit for implementation
- Providing FAQs

Definitions

- Terminology
- Definitions of small-scale DAB

Context

- Drivers
- Legislative and regulatory
- Relative coverage
- Technology

History

- How does small-scale DAB fit into the wider DAB framework?
- From Canada to Open Digital Radio
- From UK experiment to long-term implementation

Key stakeholders

- Multiplex operators
- Industry bodies
- Suppliers, etc.

Financial models

- Commercial
- Not-for-profit
- Indicative budgets
- Sources of funding support

Technical models

- The transmission chain
- Open Source
- Proprietary
- Hybrid
- Reliability
- Skills / knowledge / training requirements

Comparative case studies

- DAB structure
- DAB regulation
- Multiplex scale and rollout

Terminology

- "Small-scale DAB" or something else?
- Why might a different name be helpful?
- What are the "drag-factors" that might favour the status quo?

Future developments

- SWOT-style analysis
- Expected future developments (scale of roll-out, etc.)
- Barriers to expansion
- Representation / sharing of experience

Consultation: questionnaires, interviews - as required

Conclusions

Next Steps

Tables

1. Status across jurisdictions – table

TIMETABLE FOR DELIVERY

- First draft for comments: mid-August
- Final report: mid-October
- Presentation: 8 November 2023, WorldDAB Summit - Munich