

# What's Hot in DAB!



The World DAB Forum Newsletter  
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## SWEDISH STUDY COMPLETED

Special adviser to the Swedish Ministry of Culture, Henrik Selin, has submitted his initial report on DAB digital radio in Sweden. This is the first in-depth study of DAB digital radio in Sweden.

Mr Selin's report accepts that a terrestrial system of DAB via Eureka 147 is likely to be the main distribution platform in Sweden.

The report identifies the problems inherent in the roll out of DAB, some of which are distinctive to Sweden while others are endemic to DAB across Europe. One such problem is the fact that digital radio in Sweden is limited to the public broadcaster. Commercial and community radio both need and wish to be involved but are restricted by a lack of legislation serving the private sector. Another problem perceived by Mr Selin is the absence of a harmonised framework in the EU for analogue switch off.

But, as in the rest of the world, Mr Selin sees the main problem for DAB in Sweden as a lack of receivers at reasonable prices. He believes that small countries, like Sweden, are low on the agenda for manufacturers when it comes to launching receivers on a large scale.

A Parliamentary Committee will look at adapting existing legislation to address issues such as frequency allocation, licensing, distribution coverage and additional services. A WorldDAB delegation will meet with the new commission on June 12.

The full report can be accessed by visiting the following URL:

[http://www.kultur.regeringen.se/propositionermm/sou/pdf/sou2002\\_38a.pdf](http://www.kultur.regeringen.se/propositionermm/sou/pdf/sou2002_38a.pdf).

There is an English summary on pages 13-18 in Section A.

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## **TURKEY BACK ON AIR**

The Turkish Radio-Television Corporation (TRT) has launched Eureka 147 test transmissions in the capital, Ankara following the approval of regulatory procedures for frequency allocation.

Serving a potential audience of approximately 2 million people, TRT is currently broadcasting two stations on the Ankara multiplex. These are Radio 3, a classical music station, and Radio 2 playing popular Turkish music. There are plans to transmit Programme Associated Data to support these stations.

[http://www.worlddab.org/dabworld/dabworld\\_frame.htm](http://www.worlddab.org/dabworld/dabworld_frame.htm)

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## **NEWS FROM GERMANY**

### **- Niedersachsen**

The German state of Niedersachsen is proposing a package of financial support for DAB aimed at extending the services on offer. The State feels that the simultaneous transmission of existing stations on DAB is not an attractive enough proposition to prompt consumers to take up digital radio. The NLM would like to see the development of new programming, along with accompanying data services all of which would be exclusive to the digital medium. The proposition is that commercial stations should co-operate to produce a joint programme, with the NLM providing financial support for the technical distribution of the services.

To keep up-to-date with the latest DAB news in Germany please visit the IMDR (Digital Radio Marketing Initiative) web site at <http://www.digitalradio.de>

### **- Car & Sound Show, Germany**

At the end of April, Europe's biggest mobile technology show was held at Sinsheim, Germany. Manufacturers of in-car DAB digital radios were out in force to demonstrate their latest products.

The Blaupunkt Woodstock DAB52, the world's first in-car radio with DAB and MP3 was on display (see below). Grundig plans to launch its new Allix series DAB player in the Autumn and dealers and consumers were treated to a preview at the show. Also on display were receivers from Kenwood and Pioneer.

Along with the various manufacturers, broadcaster Digital Radio Southwest was on hand to explain the benefits of DAB to visitors to the show. DRS currently serves 75% of the Baden-Wuerttemberg area and there are at least 23 radio stations available digitally in the region.

To visit the Car & Sound official web site see: <http://www.schall->

[messen.de/messenSinsheim/carsound/indexe.html](http://messen.de/messenSinsheim/carsound/indexe.html)

Or read the full press release in German:

[http://www.worlddab.org/pressreleases/digitalradio\\_22april2002ger.pdf](http://www.worlddab.org/pressreleases/digitalradio_22april2002ger.pdf)

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## **PANASONIC SHOW GSM+DAB DEVICE**

Panasonic were at the 3GSM Cannes Event in February showing early prototypes of a fully integrated GSM+DAB platform to selected potential customers, including broadcasters, network operators and content providers. The units were also shown in private to potential customers during the CeBIT show in Hannover in March.

The prototypes are based on Panasonic's high volume GD35 GSM+WAP mobile phone, upgraded with dual-band DAB receiver, rewind and audio/data storage capabilities and a fully integrated user interface. Panasonic say that work is progressing well on addressing the many technical issues that inevitably result from such an advanced platform.

Panasonic stress that it has made no commitment to produce this or any variant as a commercial product, however initial feedback is very positive and they will be continuing to invest in developing this and other value-added DAB platforms throughout 2002.

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## **PRODUCT NEWS**

### **- VideoLogic**

VideoLogic, demonstrated a new personal digital radio design at CeBIT. The tiny, pocket-sized device uses Frontier Silicon's Chorus FS1010 chip designed by Imagination Technologies. It delivers DAB radio reception using two AA sized batteries and is likely to be the first pocket DAB unit to go into full production.

For the full press release please visit:

[http://www.worlddab.org/news/news\\_frame.htm](http://www.worlddab.org/news/news_frame.htm) or  
<http://www.videologic.co.uk/Releases/Release.asp?ID=171>

### **- Kiiro**

A new player in the DAB digital radio field, Kiiro has brought out the Kiiro Radi 622, an FM/AM/DAB digital radio hi-fi tuner. With a fully featured infrared remote control to set and recall its 30 DAB and 30 FM/AM station presets, the Radi 622 has an RDI optical port for future expansion, analogue audio and digital coaxial audio output. The tuner is available online from Kiiro [<http://www.kiiro.co.uk>] and at independent hi-fi stores priced at 560 EUR.

## **- Blaupunkt**

Bosch reports shipping its new Woodstock 52DAB in-car receiver to the UK at the end of April. It's the first in-car unit to combine the benefits of digital radio with MP3 technology. In the UK, the Woodstock will retail for around 640 EUR. Stocks have also been shipped to Germany, Belgium Italy and Denmark, and Bosch plans further shipments to Greece, France and Singapore.

For more information on the Woodstock product please visit the Receiver Archive on the WorldDAB Web Site:

[http://www.worlddab.org/rarchive/rarch\\_frame.htm](http://www.worlddab.org/rarchive/rarch_frame.htm)

## **- Modular Technologies**

A new PCI card from Modular Technologies, is expected in the UK market from early summer. Priced at around 160 EUR, the DAB card uses a Texas Instruments chip and RadioScape software. It provides full programme information via an EPG system, displays programme associated data, allows timed recordings and storage as MPEG2 files or in MP3 format for download to MP3 players. Modular Technologies plan to market the card in the UK and around the world, probably beginning in Canada and Scandinavia.

For more information on the PCI Card and other Modular Technology products please visit their web site on <http://www.modulartech.com> or directly to <http://www.digitalradio.tv>

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**For Information.....**

### **WORLDDAB TECHNICAL WORKSHOP**

The WorldDAB Technical Workshop in Zurich on May 23 and 24 is fully subscribed and registration for this event is now closed.

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### **SINGAPORE DAB CONFERENCE**

BroadcastAsia 2002 is in Singapore June 17 - 21. For a programme update and registration details for the DAB conference - Seizing Sound Business Opportunities Now!, held as part of BroadcastAsia 2002, go to [http://www.asiadab.org/asiadab\\_conf.htm](http://www.asiadab.org/asiadab_conf.htm)

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