

What's Hot in DAB!



The World DAB Forum Newsletter N.16 - October 2002

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WorldDAB At IBC

At the IBC in Amsterdam last month, digital radio had its own Supersession - a day long conference titled "Survival kit for the digital age". The conference was well attended by all elements of the digital radio chain including international broadcasters, hardware and software technologists, trade bodies and marketers.

The overall tone of the day from all quarters was one of optimism. Competitive digital technologies, such as IBOC and satellite, were not seen as an immediate threat to Eureka 147, and it was estimated that within five years 50% of the European radio markets will be digital, turning DAB into a profitable enterprise for all concerned.

Paul Brown gave the opening keynote address and told the audience that analogue radio is in a very healthy state across Europe, and that digitalisation will only add to that health.

Annika Nyberg, President of WorldDAB chaired a session on the differing rollout of DAB around the world, featuring input from Delphine Josse in France, Josef Trappel who spoke about the Prognos report (see last month's newsletter) and Duff Roman who had good news from Canada where retailer Radio Shack is set to be the first national chain to stock a range of DAB radios.

There was news of new products about to hit the market from Les Mable at Texas Instruments and Colin Crawford from PURE Digital. Blaupunkt's Volker Lauker gave a presentation about the German success story that is the new Woodstock DAB52 and talked about the Woodstock DAB53, due to launch next

spring.

Future functionality in DAB products was discussed by Panasonic's Tony King Smith. In the same session, Jacques Pomonti of Numeri-Form France explained an innovative use of DAB for students and universities due to launch early next year. And from Sony International, Rudolf Bittner spoke to the conference about DAB Java, a new standard for mobile information services.

Quentin Howard chaired the day's final session which looked at the new range of options for personal recorders for radio, software radio and personal radio. Speakers included Peter Florence from RadioScope who discussed his company's approach to DAB as Software Defined Radio, and Sav Tropiano of Canadian company, Zoopad, who told the conference of the research his company had done in planning the design and functions of its new portable AnimA DAB with MP3 product.

WorldDAB also had a stand in the EBU Village displaying a wide range of all the latest DAB receivers, including "kitchen" radios, hand-held portables, clock radios and PCI cards. Photographs of the stand will be available on the WorldDAB website soon.

For more information please visit <http://www.ibt.org>. To obtain a copy of the Prognos Report, please contact the Project Office <mailto:cooper@worldddab.org>, or to view the full press release "Terrestrial Digital Radio is right for Europe" please visit <http://www.worldddab.org/pressreleases/WorldDAB-PROGNOS.pdf>, this is also available in French and German.

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PRODUCT NEWS

CAMBRIDGE AUDIO TUNER: UK manufacturer Cambridge Audio has announced a new tuner for the in-home market. The DAB300 incorporates third-generation DAB technology from Frontier Silicon. The Band III DAB-only tuner delivers all the benefits of digital radio in a sleek, anodised silver finish and comes with remote control, 10 presets and a high-grade STN liquid crystal display. The tuner will be available in the UK in November exclusively from the Richer Sounds chain of retailers, at a price point of 240 EUR.

For further information, please contact Henry Griffiths <mailto:henry@cambridge-audio.co.uk>

JVC IN-CAR: JVC is shipping a new updated in-car DAB tuner designed to work

with any of the company's DAB capable CD and cassette receivers. The KT-DB1000 is small sized to expand installation location and mounting options. Improvements in this unit include high-performance, compact DSP for DAB demodulation allowing for higher speed tuning.

For further information, please contact Hanne Blankenhohn <mailto:blankenhohn@jte.jvc.de>

PURE WINS AGAIN: PURE Digital has won the prestigious What Hi-Fi Sound and Vision product of the year award for the second year running. Last year's winner was the DRX-601ES tuner; this year it's PURE's new generation of tuners that's beating out both analogue and digital opposition in the tuner category. The new DRX-701ES is a "quality home tuner for digital radio."

For further information, please contact Colin Crawford at <mailto:colin.crawford@pure-digital.com> or visit <http://www.pure-digital.com>. For further information on What Hi-Fi visit the web site on <http://www.whathifi.com>

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NEWS FROM LITHUANIA

In **Lithuania**, terrestrial DAB test transmissions are well under way with three public radio stations broadcasting in the city of Vilnius. Coverage is around 20% of population.

For more information, please contact Juzef Statkevich <mailto:j.statkevic@lrtc.net>

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BROADCASTING NEWS

SCOTTISH MEDIA GROUP has announced it will use an innovative web-based text management system designed by Unique Interactive to upgrade the DLS delivery system on national station Virgin Radio, and local London DAB service, Liquid. The Man DLS text manager allows DAB radio stations to monitor and update DLS text messages from anywhere in the world. The system allows manual updates as well as linking into a station's internal system to enable

song and artist information, new headlines, radio promotions or any other dynamic content to be used directly on the DLS text.

For more information, please contact Chris Gould <mailto:chris.gould@unique.com>

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TECHNOLOGY NEWS

HARRIS BROADCAST COMMUNICATIONS AND NAGRA FUTURIS have jointly demonstrated an end-to-end solution for commercial DAB at IBC. The integration of Nagra Futuris's Digital Radio Business Platform and Harris's data automatic insertion system (D-AISY) allows broadcasters and content providers to maximise revenue opportunities in both audio and datacasting. These revenue streams include subscription services, data broadcasting, broadcast web sites and other IP over DAB applications, and interactive applications.

Also at IBC, Harris demonstrated the broadcast of MPEG-4 video over DAB using an end-to-end solution implemented in conjunction with Envivio and Etheractive Solutions. It featured broadcast quality source material and encoding using a handheld device. Applications range from true video broadcasting over DAB through special purpose video transmission.

For further info please contact Becky Smith <mailto:becky@hobbsassoc.co.uk>

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WORLDDAB NEWS

PR CONSULTANT

WorldDAB is seeking a PR consultant to help position DAB digital radio as the most likely technology to succeed in a competitive market, and to generate positive international media coverage for DAB digital radio. DAB members can read more about this initiative by contacting the WorldDAB Project Office at <mailto:cooper@worlddab.org>

OBITUARY

WorldDAB expresses its sadness at the death of its Treasurer, Professor Dr Karl Breithaupt who died following a traffic accident in Austria last month. He was recognised as one of Europe's leading experts in the field of digital radio and television broadcasting and, over the years, WorldDAB has benefited greatly from his expertise and professionalism. The official obituary can be found in German and English at http://www.worlddab.org/news/news_frame.htm

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