

What's Hot in DAB!

The World DAB Forum Newsletter N.21 - April 2003

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NEWS FROM GERMANY

The future of DAB Digital Radio in Germany has been secured following a meeting of key players in Frankfurt last week.

Kurt Beck, the German Federal States' spokesman on media, and the State Premier for Rhineland Palatinate, invited delegates from key constituencies, including receiver and car manufacturers, broadcasters and legislators, to discuss the DAB Digital Radio system.

Herr Beck told representatives that the meeting had not been called to discuss whether DAB should be introduced, but how and when.

Keeping the momentum going, it was agreed that a follow-up meeting will be held in June to agree how the transition to DAB Digital Radio in Germany could be speeded up.

Annika Nyberg, President of the World DAB Forum, welcomed the positive

developments in Germany: "I'm pleased the politicians and everyone else involved have found some common ground. The situation has evolved quickly in recent weeks, and we now see momentum and initiative for DAB.

"I am optimistic that the Frankfurt meeting will prove to be the turning point in the exploitation of DAB Digital Radio in Germany."

Fresh plans to overhaul the German DAB digital radio market with a new subsidy regime have been welcomed by the World DAB Forum. At a meeting of the German regional media authorities on March 11, the ALM said it was "prepared to continue its financial participation in the promotion of DAB technology....and suggested setting up a digitisation fund to cover the cost of the transition."

In the process of adopting and implementing DAB digital radio services, Germany has encountered challenges with its preferred subsidy model whereby funding has been made available for the broadcast community to encourage the move to DAB Digital Radio.

To view the full press releases, please visit <http://www.worlddab.org/news/media.htm>

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NEWS FROM CANADA

The first of four new multiplexes for Ottawa, Canada, authorised by the CRTC last November, is now on air. CBC Radio-Canada is transmitting four services, CBC Radio One, CBC Radio Two, R-C Premiere and R-C Culturelle at 224 kbit/s from a single transmitter. A second transmitter is due to follow shortly.

Digital Radio Roll Out Inc has launched a radio campaign in support of DAB on all major stations in Toronto, Montreal, Vancouver and Windsor. Produced in cooperation with retailer RadioShack Canada, the campaign promotes the benefits of DAB while highlighting a special \$50 discount offer on PersTel DR101 and DR201 hand-held radios at 250 RadioShack stores.

For more information, please contact David Garforth at the DRRRI at <mailto:dgarforth@sympatico.ca>

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NEWS FROM SINGAPORE

SmartRadio is a digital radio service owned and operated by MediaCorp Radio Singapore Pte Ltd. Two multiplexes are currently on-air: a commercial multiplex carrying six digital-only stations and one FM simulcast station; and a trial multiplex simulcasting an additional six FM stations. In addition to audio services, SmartRadio hosts approximately 20 information services in text, images and graphics, ranging from song and artist information to news and financial news headlines, airport flight schedules and events guides.

MediaCorp Radio is also working with the Media Development Authority of Singapore, technology partners, academic institutions and businesses in the development of innovative data applications in fields of education, outdoor advertising, law enforcement and the delivery of Chinese-language data content. MediaCorp Radio is also working with industry partners to promote the latest digital radio technology and receivers in the local market.

For more information, please contact: Ms Dawn Foo at <mailto:dawnfoo@mediacorpradio.com>, or visit <http://www.smartradio.com.sg>.

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NEWS FROM THE UK

UK GOVERNMENT COMMENTS

Tessa Jowell, UK Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, told a digital radio conference in London that receiver manufacturers need to boost production and create innovative products to tap in to the burgeoning demand for digital radios. The Media Minister said manufacturers should capitalise on the recent successful Christmas sales in the UK, when stores sold out of DAB stocks. "The market is moving, and it's important that we keep the momentum going", she said.

For the full press release, please visit <http://www.worlddab.org/pressreleases/London-Seminar-Mar03.pdf>

AWARDS BEST PRACTICE

The UK NTL Commercial Radio Awards has, for the first time, added a Digital Station of the Year category.

And nominees in the Digital Station of the Year for this year's Sony Awards are BBC 6 Music, Oneworld Radio, and Saga Radio. Other digital nominees include BBC 6 Music for the Music Programming - daily sequence category, and BBC 7 for the Station Sound Award.

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CeBIT - MARCH 2003

Below is a short summary of some of the key products and news at this year's CeBIT event.

GYROSIGNAL TECHNOLOGY had four OEM prototype designs and is making a major push into the OEM. Please contact Allen Tseng [mailto: allen_tseng@gyrosignal.com](mailto:allen_tseng@gyrosignal.com) for further information.

PERSTEL'S dual band 101 for Germany is due to launch in April, with a dual band 201 with MP3 expected in May. The company was also showing its home docking station at CeBIT. Please contact Chris Patel for further information on +44 (0) 20 8263 6236 <mailto:chandra@ndirect.co.uk>.

JAZZ HIPSTER said it is interested in DAB for home entertainment systems under its own brand, not OEM, and is looking to expand its range of distributors in UK

ROCKRIDGESOUND TECHNOLOGY said it is interested in extending their range of customers through OEM It has two of its own products coming in the next two months, including a kitchen radio.

IRIVER had an R&D project on DAB and is currently evaluating the technology.

FREESAT had a prototype kitchen radio and is seeking OEMs prepared to invest in tooling costs for unique product.

For more information on the above, please contact Mandy Green at the DRDB on +44 (0)20 7306 2636 or <mailto:mandy@drdb.org>

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NEW PRODUCTS

Roberts Radio and Pure Digital have launched new DAB radios and there's a new range of digital radio products expected in the UK shops later this year from manufacturers such as Goodmans, Bush and Ministry of Sound. These products will also expand on the type and styles of radios available to consumers to include clock radios, digital TV set-top boxes and more handheld products.

ROBERTS RADIO

* Roberts Radio has launched a range of four new DAB radios, priced between £130 and £200, and available in shops from July:

* **Gemini 1**

- Mains/Battery LW/MW/FM/DAB portable radio, price guide £200

- Features a unique rewind function which enables users to go back in time to listen to audio that was broadcast a few seconds or minutes earlier. Simply press the rewind button and turn the knob to go back in time. When you come out of rewind mode, you're back to real-time listening.

- The Gemini 1 is also the first DAB digital radio to come with digital record/playback using a built in memory, or via an external SD/Compact flash slot.

- The LCD display on the Gemini 1 is significantly larger than other DAB radios, allowing full text to be static, rather than scrolling.

* **Gemini 2**

- Mains/Battery portable DAB digital radio, price guide £130

- A DAB only 'kitchen style' radio.

* **Gemini 3**

- Mains/Battery portable DAB/FM radio, price guide £140

- A DAB/FM portable radio, smaller than the Gemini 1 and 2.

* **Gemini 4**

- Sports DAB personal DAB digital radio, price guide £160

- A hand-held portable DAB radios with joystick control of tuning and volume. Operates on 3 x AA batteries for up to 20 hours of listening.

For more information, please visit the On-Line retailer 'Simply Radios' at <http://www.simplyradios.com>, or <mailto:info@robertsradio.co.uk>.

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PURE DIGITAL

- * Has launched the PURE PocketDAB(tm) 1000, a handheld portable DAB Digital Radio that will be on sale in the UK in May for £169.99.

For further information, please visit: <http://www.pure-digital.com/Products/Product.asp?Product=VL-60672>

GOODMANS

- * The **GCE7007DAB** single solution in-car radio delivers DAB/AM/FM and CD functionality without the need for an additional aerial.

- * A personal DAB stereo radio with AM/FM and CD, the **GCD200 ACTIVE** operates on mains or battery power and via headphones or two Active Speakers.

- * The **GR80** is a "kitchen style" portable radio delivering stereo sound with both analogue and Digital radio via mains or battery

- * The **GDB5** is a Free to View digital TV adapter with built in DAB radio for access to all digital TV channels and radio stations.

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BUSH

New to the DAB market, Bush launches its range of DAB products later this year, broadening the type and style of radios available to consumers.

- * The DABCR2003 is a DAB clock radio in a stylish, mains-operated cube delivering stereo, DAB-only radio.
- * A shiny silver tuner from Bush comes as a separate, or part of a stacking system. The DAB2025 delivers both analogue and DAB radio.
- * A truly portable analogue/DAB stereo radio, the TR2003DAB runs on batteries or mains.
- * The DFT3D is a Freeview set-top box from Bush that comes complete with DAB digital radio.

MINISTRY OF SOUND

- * Joining Ministry of Sound's MOSDR011 personal DAB radio (already available), is a Cube Micro System delivering AM/FM/DAB, CD/MP3 CDR and CD-RW functionality.
- * The Ministry of Sound MOSCA032 is an in-car single solution radio with AM/FM/DAB/MP3/CD-R and CD-RW compatibility. It requires no additional aerial.
- * The MOSRC023 is a space age styled personal stereo with AM/FM/DAB and CD functions in a uniquely designed product. Battery or mains operated it has a concealed antenna and 24 station presets.

For more information on products from Goodmans, Bush and Ministry of Sound, please contact Linda Francis on +44 (0)20 8238 7627, or <mailto:francisl@albapl.co.uk>.

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NEW TECHNOLOGY

VIDEO OVER DAB

RadioScape Ltd and Unique Interactive, participated in an exciting joint demonstration with Microsoft, NTL and Tandberg Television and Capital Radio on the next key advance for DAB Digital Radio technology at the NAB show in Las Vegas, USA. The demonstration utilised RadioScape infrastructure technology to build a DAB data stream for file transfer of cached audio and video clips to PDAs, as well as 'live' streamed audio/video content using the latest Windows Media 9 software. The demonstration used Unique Interactive's

innovative DAB data systems to enable the 'My Capital' data channel and the DAB EPG to be uploaded to specialised DAB Digital Radio PDA devices.

For the full press releases from RadioScape and Unique Interactive, please visit: <http://www.radioscape.com/extranet/CMS.asp?cId=835> or contact David Hawkins on +44 (0)207 317 1979 / <mailto:david.hawkins@radioscape.com>; <http://www.uniqueinteractive.co.uk/news/> or contact Giacomo Shimmings on +44 (0)20 7453 1676, <mailto:giacomo.shimmings@unique.com>

EPG SOFTWARE FOR ALL

Unique Interactive have announced the launch of EPG (Electronic Programme Guide) receiver software capable of decoding and displaying a free-to-air EPG for DAB Digital Radio. Unique have worked with DAB Bar creator, Alistair MacDonald, to release the world's first freely available software capable of providing programme listings for all of the BBC and Commercial DAB Digital Radio services in the UK. The software supports a range of PC-based DAB receivers, including both the Psion Wavefinder and the Modular Technologies PCI card, and is available for download free of charge from www.dabbar.co.uk.

For the Full Press release visit <http://www.uniqueinteractive.co.uk/news/archive.html?ID=35>

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OTHER NEWS

Commercial Radio Australia is looking for an Engineering Operations Coordinator who will be the "hands on" operational technical co-ordinator for Digital Radio broadcasting Consumer Trials beginning in Sydney in 2003.

For more information on this position, please contact Kath Brown at <mailto:kath.brown@commercialradio.com.au> or read the full job description at <http://www.worlddab.org/news/Operations-Coordinator-DAB-Trials-March03.pdf>

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MOBILEINVENT SWEDEN AB AT NAB 2003

NAB 2003 Las Vegas.

MobileInvent Sweden AB successfully demonstrated PDA based DAB receivers at the NAB. The display featured live content provided by Capital Radio and live DAB transmission services provided by NTL. The demo took place in the Microsoft® Digital Media Theater booth. Being the only mobile DAB receivers on display the demo received substantial interest at the NAB.

MobileInvent also announces the take over of the technology assets and IPR's formerly held by Etheractive Solutions AB including the mobile terminal technology using IP over DAB in combination with GSM/GPRS.

For more information please contact <mailto:info@mobileinvent.com> or visit

www.mobileinvent.com

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REGISTER NOW FOR THE CONTENT WORKSHOP!

VISIT http://www.worlddab.org/events/events_frame.htm

The Content Workshop being organised by WorldDAB, the AER and the EBU is taking place next month in Brussels on 28th May 2003. Register NOW! for this FREE event, as registration is being accepted on a 'first come first served basis' and spaces are being filled fast. In addition to the programme, there will be demonstrations and DAB receivers exhibited at the event.

Please do not hesitate to contact Veronica Charles at <mailto:charles@worlddab.org> for more information.

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