

What's Hot in DAB!



The World DAB Forum Newsletter N.22 - May 2003

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NEWS FROM CANADA

The CRTC has approved licences for four new radio stations in the Greater Toronto Area, including Canada's first stand-alone DAB radio service, Sur Sagar Radio Inc. Sur Sagar will deliver a service aimed at the South Asian community in the region, broadcasting in Punjabi, Hindi, Urdu and Gujarati, as well as English. The CRTC says "offering an entire schedule of unique programming for a specialised audience adds value to digital radio and could advance the rollout of the special receiver necessary to receive such programming."

For more information on DAB Digital Radio developments in Canada, please contact David Garforth at the DRRI at <mailto:dgarforth@sympatico.ca>

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NEWS FROM GERMANY

DIGITAL RADIO WEST STARTS ADVERTISING SPOTS THROUGH NORTH RHINE-WESTPHALIAN CINEMAS:

Cinemas across North Rhine-Westphalian have been running DAB advertising spots since the end of March in Münster, Bielefeld and Essen. The spots started in Siegen on 1st May. The ads consist of a short 25 second animation, and stresses the "Importance of Digital Broadcasting", urging consumers to buy a new DAB receiver.

"MEDIENTREFFPUNKT MITTELDEUTSCHLAND" - DIGITAL RADIO MEDIA CONGRESS, LEIPZIG, 12-14 MAY 2003:

One of the most important Media Congresses in Germany will take place in Leipzig, 12-14 May 2003, and is entitled "The Future of Radio is DIGITAL". The first nationwide Digital Radio Workshop for Journalists will be held on Monday 12 May. The journalists will take a tour around central Germany, to visit places of interest relevant to Digital Radio. They will be driven in yellow "Digital Radio Beetles" so that they can listen to digital radio constantly throughout the tour.

On Tuesday 13 May 2003, 10:45 - 12:15, a Digital Radio Panel Discussion will take place, where Politicians and radio professionals will discuss the topic: "Digital Radio - will Germany miss the international development in new technologies?"

For further information on this event, please contact Nikola Marquardt at <mailto:marquardt@digitalerrundfunk.de>.

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PRODUCT NEWS:

TEAC

TEAC's award winning, mini audio system - the Reference Series 300 - now

offers a matching triple-band tuner, embracing Digital Audio Broadcast reception. The T-H300DAB slots into the 300 Series but could, if required, be used with any stereo amplifier as a 'stand-alone' product. Deliveries of the TEAC T-H300DAB are expected in the UK mid to end August 2003 and will also be available in Germany and France from September. The T-H300DAB purchased singly is priced at £219.95.

For more information on this product, please contact Andy Giles in Press Relations at <mailto:pr@ledzeppelin.demon.co.uk>

PURE:

Pure Digital's latest tuner the DRX-702ES is also shipping to Germany and other key European territories.

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EUROPEAN DIGITAL RADIO CONFERENCE, April 2003, Munich

More than 120 participants from over ten countries attended the European Digital Radio Conference in Munich at the beginning of April, where they were able to listen to 27 specialised presentations simultaneously translated into German and English. This year the conference, which was organised by Funkschau GmbH (magazine for consumer electronics) in cooperation with WordUp PR agency, focused on three main subjects: Digital Radio/DAB, Digital Video Broadcasting/DVB-T and the transition to digital long, medium and shortwave.

The two-day conference produced very positive results. It was concluded that the digitalisation of FM broadcasts shall continue in Germany, and that the overall opinion was to establish DAB as radio system. The encouraging sales figures for digital radio receivers sold alone in Great Britain shows that the DAB system for broadcasting has enormous market potential.

For more information visit <http://www.edrc.de>

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UK NEWS:

In the UK, tyre manufacturer Dunlop has become the first national radio advertiser to book a campaign with national commercial DAB only radio station, Oneword. The campaign runs for three weeks and features a series of 20 second ads promoting a new Dunlop tyre. The campaign was booked by advertising agency Universal McCann.

Emap's Magic radio network in the north of England has launched a £50,000 DAB digital radio giveaway. Each of the eight Magic stations is giving away a Pure Evoke DAB radio every week for a year.

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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TECHNOLOGY NEWS

KOREA:

Korea's Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Energy has announced it will support a project for the development of DMB receiver technology. Over the next five years, the government will invest W46 billion in DMB (Digital Multimedia Broadcasting), a core device for digital multimedia broadcasting which provides high-quality audio and high definition TV services on the move via DAB. The Ministry says more than twenty companies and institutions will participate in the project, including US company Texas Instruments and French company Harris-ITIS. With terrestrial DMB, multimedia services, especially mobile TV services, will be available in Korea using DAB Eureka-147 technology.

The Korea Times reports that mobile phone subscribers will be able to watch digital TV broadcast through their mobile handsets or PDAs from 2004. The project will upgrade terrestrial DAB services, due to launch in Korea at the end of 2004, so they can also transmit digital TV broadcasts to tiny mobile handset screens.

This article source is the Electronics Times, written by MJ Joo and translated by TI.

For further information on this, please contact Mr John Gardner at Texas Instruments at <mailto:j-gardner3@ti.com>, <http://www.ti.com/sc/digitalradio>

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SONARICS (ISRAEL):

An Israeli company called Sonarics has developed software called ClearSignal which it plans to use with standard digital signal processor chips from mainstream suppliers to implement DAB Band III and FM. The software has been tested in Israel using test signals from broadcaster Bezeq. Sonarics hopes to make low cost modules available by the end of the year.

Please contact Mr Marius Gafen at Sonarics Labs <mailto:marius@sonarics.com> for further information.

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MobileInvent (SWEDEN):

A new company in Sweden, MobileInvent Sweden AB, has acquired all the rights and assets formerly held by Etheractive Solutions.

MobileInvent's handheld DAB receiver was part of a recent demonstration at the NAB Convention in Las Vegas showing that video and audio can be transmitted to PCs, PDAs and mobile phones at rates of 120kbps. Live video from CNN Europe and audio from Capital Radio Group were delivered using technology from RadioScape and Tandberg, uplinked from NTL's teleport in the UK to a satellite and received at the convention centre in Las Vegas. Signals were decoded and retransmitted over DAB.

The demonstration received widespread press coverage and Simon Mason, Head of New Product Development at NTL Broadcast said afterwards: "The technology worked really well, proving that the DAB platform is ideal for delivering content to handheld devices."

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

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ZOOPAD (CANADA):

Canadian company Zoopad Inc, specialising in the development of digital radio equipment and solutions, has introduced a DAB network gap filler, the Ripler Product Series. Ripler is an easy to install solution for enhancing DAB network

service coverage and works in both indoor and outdoor installations with inherent configuration and power features to accommodate most network operator requirements.

For further information, please contact Saverio Tropiano at <mailto:stropiano@zoopad.com>.

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ELANSat at MediaCast:

Taiwan based DAB receiver manufacturer, ELANSat Technologies, introduces a series of portable DAB receivers at MediaCast in London this month. ELANSat has three DAB solutions on show, including the LaGIO-R102, an FM/DAB kitchen radio, and the LaGIO-R103, described as a 'tiny cube DAB receiver'. Both these products are dual band (L-Band and Band III) and will be available to most European countries in June.

Later this summer, ELANSat will introduce a pocket DAB/FM receiver, the LaGIO-R105 operating on two AA batteries for up to 10 hours. ELANSat's provider services range from design, and injecting moulding to products as required.

For more information, please contact Vivian Lai at <mailto:vivian@elansat.com>, or visit <http://www.elansat.com>

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OTHER NEWS:

HARRIS CORPORATION:

Harris Corporation has delivered its 1,000th DAB transmitter. Harris makes transmitters at its facility in Austria and supplies to 30 countries worldwide. The 1,000th DAB transmitter is a 400w Harris DAB 665 transmitter and will be installed in T-Systems' Media and Broadcast unit in Ingolstadt, Germany, as part of an on-going modernisation of its radio system from analogue to digital.

Harris is also now holding DAB Training Courses, please visit http://www.itis.fr/dab/frame_da.htm for more information. The article can also be viewed on the WorldDAB website at <http://www.worlddab.org/news/Harris-DAB-DVB-T->

[training.pdf](#).

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PRETIO WORKSHOP:

The European Market Validation Project for Mobility Services - called PRETIO - is an EC funded marketing research project which aims to develop business models and implementation schemes for DAB digital radio mobile data services. PRETIO launched on March 1 and the project will run for 18 months. Trials will be carried out in three test sites in Italy (Trento, Torino), TransAlp (Munche-Sudtirol-Trento) and Germany (Hannover-Berlin).

A workshop in Munich on June 17 will provide more details of the project. Companies interested in providing a mobile service, a broadcast test area or any other contributions to the project are invited to send a short submission to PRETIO before May 15, 2003.

Detailed inquiries can be directed to the PRETIO project leader, Mr Uwe Feindt, at <mailto:u.feindt@mail.ertico.com>. More information on PRETIO can also be found at: <http://www.ertico.com/pretio> and soon at <http://www.pretio-project.com>.

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TIME IS RUNNING OUT FOR REGISTRATION FOR THE CONTENT WORKSHOP!

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

Over 100 people from 15 different countries will be attending the Content Workshop, organised by WorldDAB, the AER and the EBU which is taking place in Brussels on 28th May 2003. In addition to the programme there will also be demonstrations and DAB receivers exhibited at the event. There is still time to register, however, to GUARANTEE a hotel room, you must confirm by FRIDAY 9th MAY 2003.

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

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