



DIGITAL RADIO IN SOUTH AFRICA

A brief review

Southern African Digital Broadcasting Association
(SADIBA)

16 July 2013



Switch-on of DAB trial

- December 1997
 - Sentech Helderkruin site
 - 2x Stereo channels
 - Content off a CD player
 - L-Band and Band III transmission

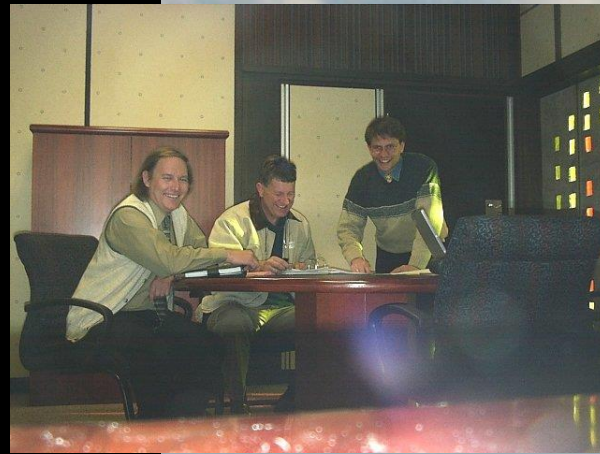




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Re-location to Sentech Tower

- May 1999
 - Re-location of transmitters to Sentech Tower
- August 1999
 - 7 broadcasters nominated to regulator for inclusion on trial
- 10 November 1999
 - SADIBA workshop on Digital Radio and Digital Terrestrial Television

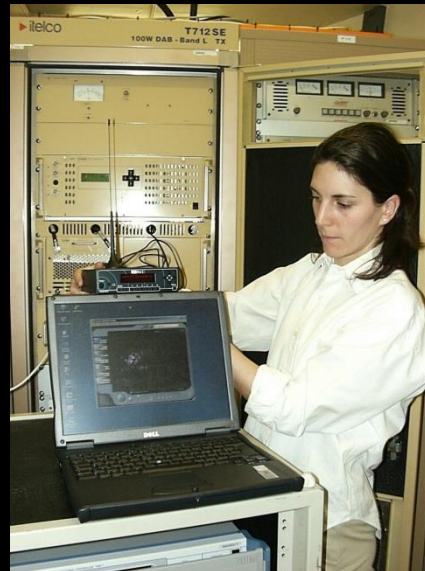




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Network and Data Trials

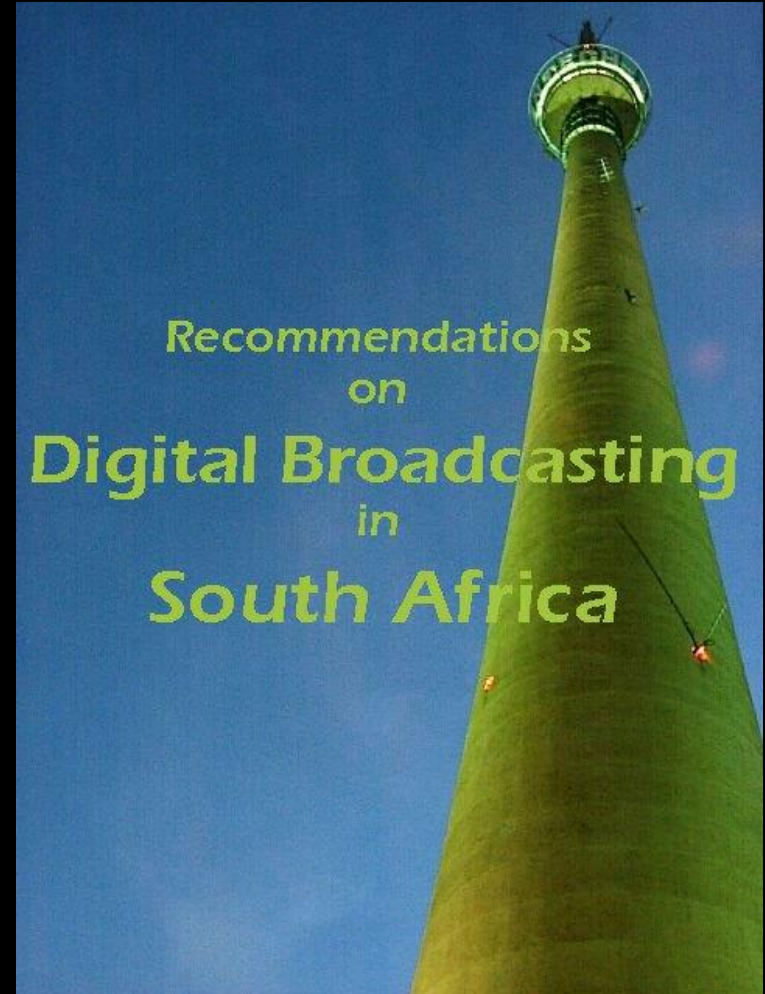
- 2000
 - Transmission power upgrade
 - Use of Band III VHF transmit antennas
 - First SFN in Africa
 - Workshop on Data-casting in DAB
 - Live data included
 - IP over DAB demo





SADIBA Recommendations: 2001

- November 2001
 - SADIBA makes recommendations to Digital Broadcasting Advisory Body (DBAB)
 - Adopt DAB
 - Track DRM





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WorldDAB in South Africa

- July 2001
 - Joint SADIBA and WorldDAB workshop
 - 16 and 17 July 2001

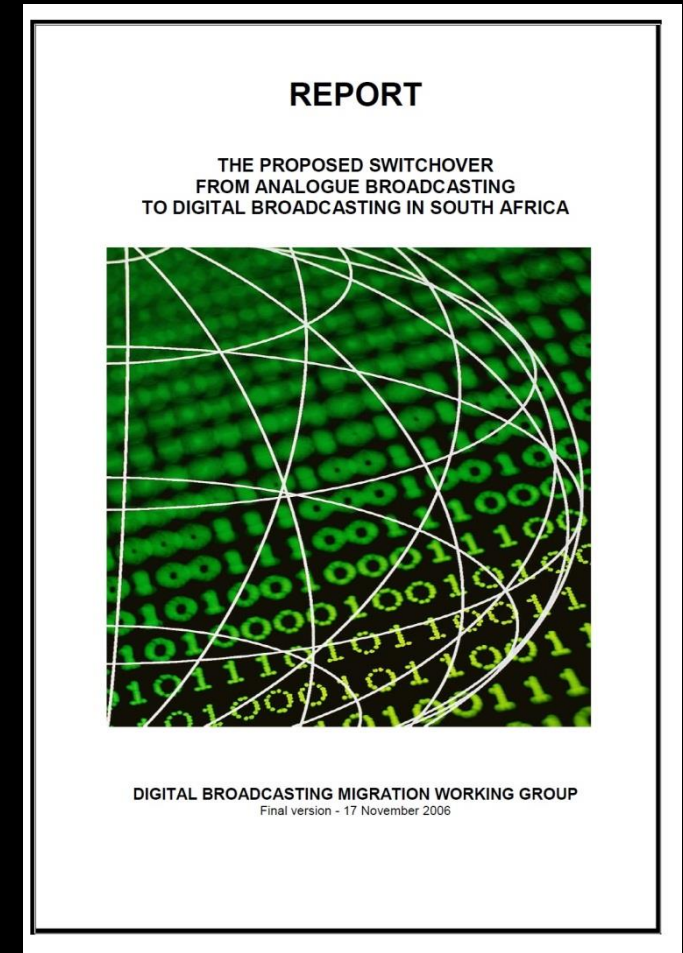


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Digital Migration Working Group

- DMWG (2006) recommends to the Minister of Communications:
 - It is recommended that the Eureka 147 (ETSI EN 300 401) and Digital Radio Mondiale (DRM) (ETSI ES 201 980) standard be adopted as complementary standards for digital sound broadcasting in South Africa
 - It is recommended in addition that an allocation for T-DAB in 238.432-239.968 MHz can be licensed now for one T-DAB radio multi-channel distribution network



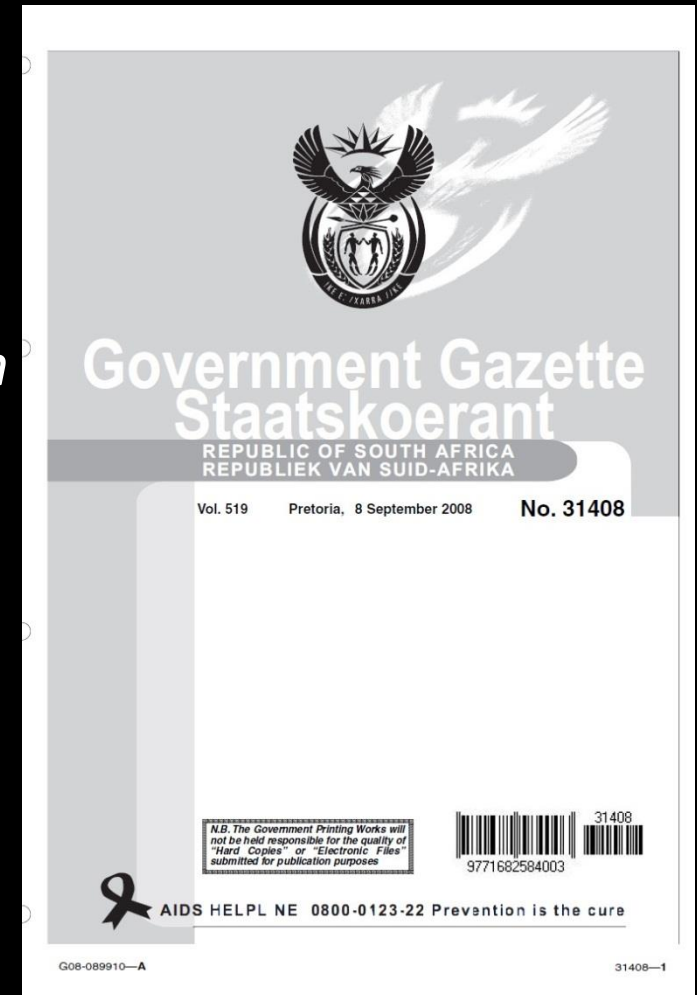


Digital Radio on the Back Burner

- BDMP (2008)

“Globally sound broadcasting (radio) has, for various reasons, not been given the same sense of urgency. However, after analogue television switch-off more radio frequency spectrum will become available to accommodate digital sound broadcasting in the allocated Band.”

BDMP GG31408, 8 Sept 2008





Renewed Interest

- 2005 – 2009
 - Focus predominantly on DTT
- 2010 - DMB trial - Mobile TV
- 2012 Radio Broadcasters actively planning for DAB+
 - Delays have allowed easy introduction of DAB+ (without legacy receivers)



SADIBA Achievements

Outlook

- Excellent technical work done
- Great engineering achievements
- Recommendations made still stand
 - Technical Standards (now DAB+)
 - Also on light touch regulation and measures required in a multichannel environment
- Failures
 - Little business planning
 - Little insight into the complexity of launching a new digital platform
 - No business level collaboration - also in the business development, roll-out, launch and marketing of Digital Radio
 - We've not been able to get going because we've neglected work and focus on these areas –
- This workshop key in taking us forward
 - Pushing for television transition and the right for radio broadcasters to exist in the digital domain
 - Crafting the next steps to be taken to realise the new world of digital radio
- Thanks to Mr Lynn Mansfield for taking the initiative in planning this event
- Welcome and Thank you!



Information

Web:

www.sadiba.org

Email:

secretary@sadiba.org