Industry headlines

- All major car manufacturers are fitting DAB in their vehicles
- EU governments are working together to accelerate rollout of DAB in Europe, building cross-border links to develop a European consensus about radio’s digital future
- Norway is the first country to confirm a DSO date (2017); and Switzerland is planning for DSO in 2020-24
- In Asia Pacific, Australia leads the way with 3.5 million DAB+ listeners, and Indonesia launched permanent services in Jakarta in April 2016
- DAB receivers are now available from €15 with prices continuing to drop
Automotive

- All major car manufacturers are fitting DAB in their vehicles
- In the UK 85%, Switzerland 65% and Norway 63% of new cars come with DAB/DAB+ as standard
- WorldDAB has established an automotive task force, collaborating with car manufacturers on installation of digital radio as standard across Europe and beyond
- Territories with national DAB coverage account for 60% of all new car sales in Europe, and car makers are planning accordingly

European collaboration

- **EU governments** are working together to accelerate rollout of DAB in Europe, building cross-border links to develop a European consensus about radio’s digital future
- A **European Digital Radio Alliance** was established in 2016 to make digital radio the standard and the preferred choice of listeners across Europe. EDRA’s strategy is to promote a hybrid DAB/FM solution that will support all broadcasters and consumers in Europe and allow individual countries to go digital at their own speed. 12 founding members represent over 300 public service and commercial radio stations
- The **European Broadcast Union (EBU)** has called for the adoption of digital broadcast radio across Europe and for the inclusion of digital capability in all new radio receivers
- WorldDAB is engaging with the **European Commission** about the potential inclusion of digital terrestrial radio in the Digital Single Market Strategy, to ensure the allocation of Band III spectrum to digital radio, and to propose EU regulation that all new radio receivers (consumer and automotive) be capable of receiving FM and digital services

Digital switchover

- Several European markets are considering their long term plans for broadcast radio, including potential digital switchover scenarios
- Norway is the first country to confirm a DSO date (2017); and Switzerland is planning for DSO in 2020-24
- WorldDAB has a working group focused on DSO, to coordinate activities and share best practice, attended by Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom
Asia Pacific and Rest of World

- Australia successfully launched DAB+ in 2009, followed by Hong Kong in 2011
- Indonesia launched trial services in Jakarta in April 2016
- Thailand, Malaysia and Vietnam are now investigating digital radio options. WorldDAB has organised workshops in each of these countries
- South Africa has an ongoing DAB+ trial covering 21% of the population
- Turkey, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates and Kuwait are trialling DAB+

Receivers

- DAB receivers are now available from €15 with prices continuing to drop
- Receivers with colour screens now retail for less than €65
- There is ongoing work to create consistent receiver specifications in different countries, building on work already undertaken in the UK and Germany

Europe: regular services

- Belgium: The Flemish Government has confirmed its commitment to DAB+ (with the stated aim of digital switchover) and in Wallonia, the government agreed to partly finance investment for DAB+
- Denmark: Issued a clear roadmap for digital radio, with a transition to DAB+ by 1st October 2017, a new national multiplex on air next year and a decision on DSO when 50% of listening is digital
- France: The CSA published end 2015 a timetable for rollout of digital radio across the whole country. The next metropolitan areas of France to be covered include Lille, Lyon, Strasbourg, Nantes, Rouen, Toulouse with calls for application in 2016 and Bordeaux, Besançon, Orléans and Clermont-Ferrand in 2017. This is in addition to the current offering of over 100 DAB+ stations currently on air in Paris, Marseille and Nice
- Germany: Secured financing for public broadcasters 2017-20 (3x previous funding) and is preparing a second national multiplex. The nationwide DAB+ network is to be extended by around 50 transmitters with a completion date of 2016. Germany is now developing a DSO strategy.
- Ireland: National Public Broadcaster RTÉ operates a full-service multiplex across a five transmitter network covering 52% of the population in the main cities
- Italy: 85% of the population will be covered by a DAB+ signal by 2017
- Monaco: Two national multiplexes with 7 exclusive DAB+ stations
- The Netherlands: The country has seen the fastest growth for DAB+ (launched 2013) Digital Radio NL has six advertising flights in total over the year 2016 focused on the automotive market
- Norway: Will have digital switchover in 2017, starting with first FM switch off on 11 January 2017
- Poland: Polskie Radio has extended coverage of its DAB+ services to 56%
• Slovenia: The official roll-out of digital radio started in September, as public broadcaster RTV Slovenija launched the first digital radio network featuring 13 radio stations
• Spain: DAB services are on air in Madrid and Barcelona including their metropolitan areas, covering 20% of the Spanish population
• Sweden: All major Swedish radio broadcasters are united behind the desire for digitization and officials are awaiting developments in other territories. Swedish commercial radio stations have been licensed to send 21 national channels on DAB and over 3 million people can currently receive DAB services
• Switzerland: Announced plans for DSO between 2020 and 2024 and 53% of listening is now via digital
• UK: DAB listening and ownership grew in Q1 2016 boosting all digital listening to 44.1%. It is on track to hit the criteria for a digital switchover decision in second half 2017

Europe: trials and/or regulation
• Austria: Celebrating the first anniversary of the DAB+ trial in Vienna and a nationwide tender for DAB+ will be launched in 2017
• Czech Republic: DAB+ currently has 58% population coverage with 29 DAB+ services
• Gibraltar: DAB+ has been on-air since 2012 with four services covering 90% of the population
• Hungary: Chose DAB+ for its digital radio standard and there is currently a test multiplex on air, broadcasting seven radio programs to the Budapest area
• Latvia: Trials starting November 2016 with 18 DAB+ channels
• Romania: The regulator has launched a public consultation on the allocation of DAB multiplexes
• Slovakia: a DAB+ trial started in December in Bratislava. In June the licence for the trial was extended and others have been awarded for additional DAB+ trials in the cities of Košice, Banská Bystrica, Levice and Nitra

Europe: potential markets
• Estonia: Ongoing DAB trials since 2000
• Romania: January 2016 saw the National Authority for Management and Regulation in Communications (ANCOM) in launched a public consultation on the allocation of digital terrestrial broadcasting multiplexes T-DAB
• Ukraine: WorldDAB hosted a workshop in collaboration with The National Council of Television and Radio Broadcasting in early 2016

Asia Pacific: regular services
• Australia: Continues to lead the way in Asia Pacific – with DAB+ household penetration rising to 23.6%. The latest quarterly GfK Report shows the number of people listening to radio via a DAB+ device has grown to 3.35 million in the five capital cities. Work is underway for regional DAB+ coverage
• Hong Kong: DAB+ launched in 2011. After the completion of the network construction of seven hilltop sites on 19 June 2012, 17 out of the 18 channels are broadcasting
• Indonesia: Public broadcaster Radio Republik Indonesia (RRI) has launched trial DAB+ digital radio services in Jakarta
• South Korea: Assessing DAB+ for broadcast radio

Asia Pacific, Africa, MENA: trials and/or regulation
China: DAB is on air in Beijing

Chinese Taipei: A DAB single frequency network (SFN) trial is operated by SuperFM (the commercial broadcaster) and covers major cities including Taipei and New Taipei

Kuwait: Preparations are underway for the second phase of a DAB+ trial. A decision regarding commercial roll out is expected once all trials have been completed

Malaysia: a DAB+ trial multiplex is on air shared by both public and commercial broadcasters

New Zealand: Digital radio services have been introduced in on a trial basis in two cities

South Africa: Digital radio services have been introduced in on a trial basis in two cities

Thailand: The National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission (NBTC) plans to start digital radio by 2017

The UAE: Following a trial, the TRA (Telecoms Regulation Authority) is working towards a commercial launch of DAB+ and has initiated industry consultation on DAB+ receiver specifications.

Turkey: a DAB trial in Istanbul and Ankara broadcasts five simulcast stations

Asia Pacific: DAB interest

Vietnam: Voice of Vietnam trialled DAB+ in Jul 2013. The roadmap for digital broadcasting radio and TV 2020 was granted by the Prime Minister in 2009

Myanmar: stakeholders are considering development of DAB+

About WorldDAB

WorldDAB is the global industry forum responsible for defining and promoting DAB digital radio. By bringing together radio industry professionals, WorldDAB provides knowledge and expertise that helps countries successfully adopt and implement broadcast digital radio. WorldDAB’s 90-plus member organisations cover 27 countries across the globe and include public and commercial broadcasters, regulators, network providers and manufacturers of receivers, chips, professional equipment and automobiles.

WorldDAB is shaping the future of radio, delivering advice and tailored solutions on all aspects of the switch from analogue to digital.

About DAB+ digital radio

There is growing momentum towards the rollout of DAB/DAB+ digital radio across Europe, Asia Pacific, Arab States and South Africa. Over 30 million domestic and automotive DAB/DAB+ receivers have now been sold – with annual sales almost doubling in the last four years. Digital radio has reached a tipping point in Europe with well over 90% network coverage now available in the UK, Switzerland, Norway, Denmark, the Netherlands and Germany, and 68% in Italy. The first countries have confirmed digital switchover dates and political commitment towards digital radio is building in many other markets. DAB+ digital radio offers significant benefits to broadcasters and listeners. The technology is tried and tested. Now is the time to embrace the opportunity.