

What's Hot in DAB!



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POCKET DAB

The digital radio world is buzzing with news of a sexy new hand-held portable digital radio from Roke Manor Research, a subsidiary of Siemens.

A working prototype of the display model Roke had on the Panasonic stand at IFA, caused much excitement among both consumers and trade visitors to Live 2001, the technology show held in Birmingham in September. Indeed, when Roke Manor's Dave Hawkins dropped by the WorldDAB project offices to show off the gizmo, staff couldn't wait to get their hands on it!

The prototype measures just 5cm x 7cm x 1.5cm and operates using a mobile phone type battery with dangling earphones which also act as the aerial. The controls are via four small buttons with a menu on a 2cm x 3cm black and white display screen. Currently the battery life is two hours, but Roke believe this will triple once some power saving technology is added.

This is the world's first working model of a portable, hand-held digital radio and, already, just one week after it's unveiling at Live 2001, it is appearing in national press and consumer magazines in the UK as journalists trumpet its potential.

The Pocket DAB uses Roke Manor's Gold Card II radio module, which has been designed for mass production. The tiny size of the Gold Card II opens up a wide range of potential markets for digital radio. For example, as well as Pocket DAB radio, it can be incorporated into a true mobile phone, or a home DAB receiver or into car stereo systems.

Roke Manor intends to make and sell a limited number of prototypes within the industry and plans to sell the module and their know-how to manufacturers.

The world's first hand-held DAB receiver is the culmination of research and development between Roke Manor Research and Panasonic System LSI Design Europe.

For more information visit:

- <http://www.roke.co.uk>
- http://www.worlddab.org/news/news_frame.htm

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AUSTRALIA TRIALS DIGITAL RADIO

Last August, Australia's commercial radio peak body, CRA (Commercial Radio Australia) approved a plan to extend existing technical Eureka 147 trials in the L-Band into a comprehensive consumer trial. A progress report from Australia says these extended trials are expected to be underway by the end of 2001 and will include new industry players along with the existing participants, and a continuing commitment from Australia's national broadcaster, ABC. .

The new trials will focus on measuring consumer response to a range of audio

