

What's Hot in DAB!



The World DAB Forum Newsletter
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South Africa Recommends Eureka 147

After nearly a year of deliberation, the Southern African Digital Broadcasting Association (SADIBA) last week (January 30) recommended that Eureka 147 technology be adopted as standard for Digital Radio in South Africa.

SADIBA determined that "Digital Radio according to the Eureka 147 technology provides a low-cost information distribution system that delivers the multimedia radio of the future and will contribute to establishing a knowledge economy in South Africa."

The Association further recommended that Band III and L-Band frequency allocations be made for Digital Radio, that both existing and new services are accommodated, and that a commercial multiplex licence be issued first.

The Digital Broadcasting Advisory Body (DBAB) is expected to present final recommendations on digital broadcasting to the Minister of Communication in May 2002.

Last July, a team from WorldDAB attended a two-day workshop in Johannesburg to debate the various issues facing South Africa's broadcasters and regulators. The team was able to share its accumulated knowledge on such issues as policy, regulation, technology, and commercial and marketing strategies, which other countries around the world have identified as core to the successful implementation of digital broadcasting.

For more information on the recommendations and DAB in South Africa, visit <http://www.sadiba.co.za>

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Denmark to Increase Coverage

This week (January 29), Denmark's Tele Danmark received government approval for the final phase of transmitter rollout that will bring 100% DAB Digital Radio coverage to the country.

Currently, coverage stands at 30% of the population. A national network of transmitters is due to roll out this year increasing coverage to 75% by August 1, 2002, building to 100% by March 2003.

National public broadcaster, DR, plans to introduce a wide range of new programming, which will be unique to DAB Digital Radio. Listeners will be able to tune in to several youth music channels, a jazz channel, a children's channel, and services offering news and traffic information.

First to benefit from DR's upgrading of transmitters will be Copenhagen, the location of this year's WorldDAB Forum, October 10/11.

For further information contact Ms Karen Marie Zeuthen at <mailto:KMZ@dr.dk> or visit <http://www.dr.dk/dab/> (Danish). An English version of this web site will be available very soon.

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DAB in Asia

All India Radio Plans Digital Launch -

New Delhi could be served by six DAB Digital Radio stations by the end of the year as All India Radio (AIR) plans to launch services in the capital. Other metro regions to receive DAB in a second phase rollout include Calcutta, Mumbai and Chennai.

Head of AIR resources, Dr Srivastava, says the challenge for India is to bring down the price of DAB digital radios to a realistic level for the price-sensitive Indian consumer. In order to achieve this, AIR is expected to form a relationship with a British manufacturer that will enable low cost radios to be made in India.

The success of DAB Digital Radio in India depends on whether home grown sets can be made cheaply for the domestic market.

Government approval for AIR's plans has already been secured and the project is currently awaiting final approval of the Tenth Plan.

For the full story visit

http://new.financialexpress.com/fe_full_story.php?content_id=618

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Korea Begins Testing -

A pilot DAB service using the Eureka 147 standard begins testing in Korea in February. The Korean Broadcasting System (KBS) received approval last year from the Ministry of Information and Communication for a five-month trial, after which the MIC will decide whether Korea will adopt the Eureka 147 standard.

The MIC hopes to begin official Digital Radio services in 2003, and has set up a committee to look at the legal aspects of introducing Digital Radio services and examining ways of activating DAB related industries.

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Singapore Launches Multimedia on SmartRadio -

MediaCorp Radio Singapore has launched new and innovative multimedia programming for its DAB service, SmartRadio. With SmartRadio, listeners can view up-to-the-minute information including news, traffic reports, airport flight information, entertainment news and an events guide, all in the easy-to-read, familiar style of a website browser.

For more information about DAB in Asia please contact Ms Pearlynn Pek at the Asia DAB Committee of the World DAB Forum
(mailto:pearlynn_PEK@asiadab.org) or visit <http://www.asiadab.org>

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BBC Launch Digital-only service

The BBC has launched the first of its new national digital only radio stations in the UK. [BBC Five Live Sports Extra](#) went on air February 2nd.

[BBC Five Live Sports Extra](#) provides exclusive live sports coverage and allows the BBC to fully exploit its sports rights. Among the sporting events the stations will feature are cricket, Six Nations Rugby, additional Wimbledon tennis matches, and more football.

During 2002, the BBC will launch four more national digital only radio stations. These stations are Network X, providing black music and a dedicated news service for young people; 6 Music, a station for listeners who are passionate about rock and pop music; Network Z, providing comedy, drama and children's programmes; and Asian network, providing music news and current affairs for the diverse British Asian audience. (Network X and Y are currently working titles only.)

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A "Chorus" of Approval for DAB

On January 17, at a London forum for manufacturers organised by Digital One, a new fabless semiconductor company, Frontier Silicon, announced the availability of the Frontier Chorus FS1010, a single-chip DAB/Audio processor based on the licensed META DBX-1 design from Digital One and Imagination Technologies. Production quantities of the new processor are planned for March, and Frontier expect the sub-£100 digital radio to be available the second half of 2002

The forum was designed to highlight the trends and opportunities presented by DAB Digital Radio following indications at the end of last year that the medium was ripe for mass market adoption. Digital One's aim was to share this information and give encouragement to current and future manufacturers.

Among those attending the forum were more than 40 senior executives from Alpine, Arcam, Atlantic Technology, Audio Partnership, Dixons Stores Group, Hitachi, Imerge, JVC, Kenwood Electronics, LG Electronics, Linn Products, Mercedes-Benz, MG Rover Group, Mitsubishi Electric, Modular Technology, Pace Micro Technology, Psion Digital, Quad, Wharfedale, Bosch, Roberts Radio, Samsung, Sanyon, Sharp UK, Toyota, and TTP.

The event was oversubscribed, and Digital One is planning to host a second forum elsewhere in Europe later this Spring.

- For the full press release on the new Frontier Silicon chip, click here http://www.worlddab.org/pressreleases/Frontier_Silicon02.pdf

- For more information on the London Forum, please contact the Mr Kevin Franklin at <mailto:kevin.franklin@digitalone.co.uk>

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Slovakia Draws up Plans

Slovakia received government approval for DAB Digital Radio using Eureka 147 in June 2000. This year, the Research Institute of Posts and Telecommunications is expected to submit to the government, a document outlining the strategy and technical criteria necessary for the implementation of T-DAB.

Regular DAB transmission in L-band is planned for 2006 in the western part of the country.

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Sweden Lobbies Brussels

Representatives of Swedish Radio's Board of Governors travel to Brussels in

March to discuss DAB Digital Radio with the EU Commission, and then go on to Geneva for talks with the EBU. Digital Radio in Sweden is undergoing a change in dynamics following a cut in DAB services to 40%.

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TECHNICAL

Isle of Man 3G/DAB Trials

Trials are currently underway on the Isle of Man, off the UK coast, to test the possibilities of convergence of both 3G and DAB. Partners mm02, Virgin Radio and Crowncastle International have developed the network, while Unique Interactive and XY Networks are supplying data facilities on 3G/DAB and DAB only platforms.

A carefully selected closed user group on the Isle of Man has been given 3G handsets and Psion WaveFinders so that public reaction to audio and data services over both DAB and 3G can be assessed. Six services are currently available, five from Virgin Radio and the local Manx Radio service. An additional Manx audio service is to be added to the trial this Spring.

Please contact Mr Peter Dews (<mailto:Peter.Dews@crowncastle.com>) for more information on the trials taking place in the Isle of Man.

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CET's Visual Radio DAB Receiver Card

CET Technologies Pte Ltd from Singapore launches an enhanced Visual Radio (VR) DAB receiver capable of receiving both DAB Eureka 147 and proprietary Conditional Access (CA) DAB broadcasts in VHF Band III and L-Band, in the first quarter of this year.

Please contact Ms Pearlynn Pek for more information (mailto:pearlynn_PEK@asiadab.org).

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"What's New for Radio?" WorldDAB Technical Committee Workshop

The Technical Committee is holding a two-day workshop entitled "What's new for radio?" on May 23 and 24 in Zurich. The aim of the workshop is to provide a complete briefing on the possibilities of DAB. Among topics under discussion will be DAB and mobile technology, DAB and car systems, EPG possibilities and a round up of the market situation around the world. The presentations will consider the whole value chain for the benefit of content providers, transmission

providers and manufacturers.

For more information on this Workshop visit the WorldDAB Web Site at <http://www.worlddab.org>

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