

What's Hot in DAB!



The World DAB Forum Newsletter N.15 - September 2002

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NEWS FROM AUSTRALIA

Extensive coverage is predicted across the Sydney metropolitan area from one transmission site co-located with television services. This is an encouraging sign given that the standard Eureka 147 SFN configuration of a number of high powered transmitters is not easy to establish in harmony with television.

Intensive planning is underway to mount a comparative trial of VHF Band III spectrum with the existing ensemble on L-Band.

Given that analogue and digital television services share Band III spectrum with the soon to be established DAB transmission, a design that eliminates co-channel interference is being developed.

Extensive coverage from one transmission site is predicted across the Sydney metropolitan area. This same transmitter also broadcasts television services - an encouraging sign given that the standard Eureka 147 SFN configuration of a number of high powered transmitters is not easy to establish in harmony with television. The Sydney trial will test a series of low powered "translator" sites in an SFN as well as the possibility of using LBand transmitters to provide in building coverage in built up areas.

CRA, the trial coordinating body, would be interested in sharing experiences with any other countries who have conducted similar trials or are testing similar transmission scenarios.

Australia is still looking to receiver manufacturers to develop receivers with greater functionality to expose the data "value adds" that DAB offers over straight analogue transmission, as the improvement in audio quality is unlikely to be a compelling consumer offer.

For more information, please contact Kathy Brown on <mailto:kathy.brown@commercialradio.com.au>

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NEW RECEIVER FROM ELANSAT

From Taiwan comes word of a new player in the DAB digital radio market. ELANSat Technologies Inc., part of ELAN Microelectronics Corporation, has announced the launch of two new OEM DAB products. The prototype RDO-100 is a bright orange coloured, cigar shaped stand alone DAB radio. It is both band III and L band compatible, with 18 DAB presets and uses Texas Instruments chip technology. ELANSat also have a compact, battery operated pocket DAB unit.

<http://www.elansat.com/>

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NEWS FROM SWITZERLAND

Radio DAB Network in Switzerland hopes to become the country's first commercial DAB multiplex operator. The consortium has announced its intention to apply for a frequency allocation on block 11A Band-III. Radio DAB Network plans to broadcast up to nine audio services in Suisse Romande, the French-speaking region of Switzerland. Content will include Jazz, Techno, Rock, Chart Hits and Latino music and, if successful, broadcasting could begin in 2003.

For more information, contact: <mailto:jlz@radiodab.ch> or visit the Radio DAB Network website at <http://www.radiodab.ch>

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BBC LAUNCHES 1Xtra

As reported in last month's newsletter, the BBC has launched its third new national digital radio station, 1Xtra. The station is dedicated to playing the best in contemporary black music for a young audience. A high profile launch and substantial promotional backing on both BBC television and other BBC radio channels has ensured the new station a flying start with good press coverage across the UK.

Visit the 1Xtra web site at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/1xtra/>

Network Z (working title) featuring the best in comedy, drama, readings and dedicated children's programmes will be nationally available on DAB later this year and the Asian network, which is currently broadcast in local areas on analogue radio is expected to be on air in Autumn 2002.

Visit the BBC website for more information about new digital radio stations coming soon at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/digitalradio/radiostations.shtml>

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RECENT UK FACTS AND FIGURES

Month on month the DAB digital radio market in the UK is showing encouraging growth. Currently units in the market stand at around 70,000 and that figure is growing at the rate of 1,000 a month, representing a value of £360,000 per month. In the nine months to May 2002, the DAB digital radio market was worth an estimated £3 million.

In the past month, national press stories in the UK have reached more than eight million people with the latest developments in DAB digital radio.

Source: Digital Radio Development Bureau.

For more information, please contact Mandy Green at: <mailto:mandy@drdb.org>

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WORLDDAB GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The 8th General Assembly meeting of the WorldDAB Forum will be held in Copenhagen on October 10th and 11th in partnership with Danmarks Radio. As well as regular Assembly business such as reports from the President and Treasurer, sessions will include a report on commissioned research carried out by Prognos, as well as updates from the UK, Germany, Asia, Canada and, of course, Scandinavia.

Members must return the participation form by October 1.

Please visit the WorldDAB Web Site http://www.worlddab.org/events/events_frame.htm

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PROGNOS REPORT

The Prognos Report which compares terrestrial digital radio and satellite digital radio, is released at the IBC Supersession on September 16. It concludes that valuable L-Band spectrum in Europe should be earmarked for Terrestrial Digital Radio at least until Satellite Digital Radio in Europe is launched, as expected, in 2005.

Journalists are invited to a full briefing on the Prognos report at a press conference on Monday, September 16 at 0800 in Room T at the Amsterdam RAI International Exhibition and Congress Centre.

For the full press release visit: http://www.worlddab.org/news/news_frame.htm

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