

UK Digital radio switchover moves closer

London, 26 September 2012

Global Radio confirmed today that they have concluded a deal with Bauer, investing £15 million for the carriage of all their stations on their local multiplexes for the next 12 years. They have stated their commitment to digital radio and confirm that they have chosen to focus on the national and local DAB layer, and see the regional layer of multiplexes becoming redundant. As a result, MXR has decided not to re-new their multiplex licenses (the regional DAB layer) when they expire, starting in summer 2013. MXR covers the North East, North West, South Wales, West Midlands and the Yorkshire regions and carries 19 different services in total.

Ofcom has confirmed they will use the released spectrum as part of the coverage planning for the buildout of local radio, in preparation for a radio switchover. Digital Radio UK says:

The release of the MXR regional DAB spectrum is good news for local digital radio as it supports the planning of the expansion of local DAB coverage, as part of the preparations for a radio switchover. Ofcom is planning to utilise the released spectrum in the planning of the buildout of local DAB coverage. Global has confirmed that they are fully committed to digital radio at both a national and local level, and have come to an agreement with Bauer for the distribution of their services on Bauer local DAB multiplexes.

Other digital radio news from the UK is that there are media reports that Planet Rock is up for sale, and they report four expressions of interest. Also, this week saw the launch of The Wireless in London and Yorkshire on DAB. The Wireless is a new radio service from Age UK targeting the over 50s, and features DJs such as David Hamilton and Graham Dene.

ENDS

About WorldDMB

WorldDMB is the global industry forum for digital radio promoting DAB, DAB+ and DMB - the digital radio broadcasting standards of choice in Europe and much of Asia Pacific. Its global membership includes public and commercial broadcasters, network providers, receiver manufacturers, chip manufacturers, and car manufacturers. Members collaborate to deliver advice and tailored solutions on all aspects of the switch from analogue to digital radio including regulation, licensing, technology trials, network build out, marketing and production of new digital radio content. Broadcast radio professionals have access to this body of expertise which is delivered through leading-edge industry events, car manufacturers' workshops, tailored workshops and seminars and the WorldDMB website via the members-only information portal that includes an extensive online ETI library. More than 500 million people worldwide are within range of a DAB/DAB+/DMB Digital Radio transmitter, there are well over 1,000 services on air and several hundred varieties of receivers are available to market.

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