

Press release – Establishing The Czech DAB Forum - April 10, 2013

The participants within radio digitalization create a DAB Forum.

The companies, Ceske Radiokomunikace a.s. (DAB network operator), Cesky rozhlas, Gama Media s.r.o. (GAMA Radio), Lagardere Active CR, a.s. (radio Frequency 1), LONDA spol. s r.o. (radio Impuls), RADIO PROGLAS s.r.o., RTI cz, s.r.o. (DAB network operator), SeeJay Radio s.r.o. and TELEKO, s.r.o. (DAB network operator) have, on the 4th April 2013 in Prague, founded a group of participants with similar interests on the development of digital radio DAB (Digital Audio Broadcasting).

The main objective of the DAB Forum participants is to create an efficient approach towards the development of digital radio broadcasting in the Czech Republic. Representatives of the companies defined areas that are important for the successful introduction of radio broadcasting in DAB. These include the availability of broadcasting spectrum in band III, a firm commitment to the DAB radio system in legislation, increasing the penetration of household and car digital radio receivers and as well as media coverage of digital radio broadcasting.

Currently, digital terrestrial DAB radio signal covers about half the population of the Czech Republic. The listeners can already receive up to 17 digital radio stations. The programs offered and the coverage will continue to expand. For broadcasting frequencies, primarily in L-band are used, which have significantly lower coverage performance when compared with frequencies in band III. This band is vacant following the analogue TV switch-off.

Digital Radio DAB (Digital Audio Broadcasting) delivers to the listener a significant expansion of program choice, increased sound quality and will deliver various supporting multimedia applications. The radio programmes received is free of charge just like FM. For reception it is recommended that a receiver that enables reception of both DAB and DAB+ signals in L-band and band III, should be used. This will provide new opportunities for radio broadcasters to reach listeners in other targeted areas.

The Czech Republic, with its approach to digital radio broadcasting, is one of the developed countries that have adopted the DAB platform of digital radio broadcasting. Other countries within Europe that have adopted the DAB system include The United Kingdom, Norway, Denmark, Sweden, France, Belgium and many others, outside Europe South Korea, China, Indonesia and Australia.

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