

## **Swedish Government appoints Nina Wormbs to suggest how to make transition from FM broadcast to digital radio**

**25 July, Sweden**

On 25 July 2013 the Government decided to appoint a special investigator, who will serve as industry coordinator, to work on the transition from FM broadcasting to terrestrial digital radio.

### **What should the coordinator do?**

The coordinator, in collaboration with the National Agency for radio and television and in close dialogue with other stakeholders will draft a plan for the transition from terrestrial analogue FM broadcasting to terrestrial digital radio broadcasting. The plan is to be put forward by 30 November 2014.

### **When will the FM network be switched off?**

The coordinator shall make an assessment of the estimated date for switch off. The Coordinator shall assume that FM broadcasts will be switched off 2022, that the digital broadcasts will reach the entire country, and that the digital broadcasts must meet high contingency requirements. The plan shall serve as the basis for a decision by the Government to determine the time for when FM broadcasts will cease.

### **Why does the Government consider it necessary to expand terrestrial digital radio when Internet radio already exists?**

There are a number of reasons why the government believes that expansion of digital radio is to prefer instead of concentrating solely on web radio.

Radio listening has a very strong position today and traditional terrestrial broadcasting is still required. The absolute majority of the population listens to the radio in a conventional radio; only three per cent chooses the web radio as their primary listening source today.

Another important reason is the matter of contingency. If something happens, terrestrial radio is a powerful distribution platform to reach out to many, while webcasts works less well. Networks, and especially mobile networks, are too sensitive to congestion in such situations.

Going for a terrestrial digital technology with coverage requirements is also important to ensure that the radio is not confined to urban areas. None of the broadcasters themselves have seen it as an alternative to simply switch to Internet radio.

**Read more here (Swedish) >>**

<http://www.regeringen.se/sb/d/16925/a/221030>

<http://mb.cision.com/Main/768/9444787/145230.pdf>

**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 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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