



## **WorldDMB General Assembly appoints New President and Vice-Presidents**

Amsterdam, The Netherlands, 6 November 2013

The 19<sup>th</sup> WorldDMB General Assembly in Amsterdam, The Netherlands saw the announcement of Patrick Hannon, VP of Corporate Development at Frontier Silicon as the incoming President of WorldDMB 2013-2015, picking up the leadership baton from outgoing President, Jorn Jensen of NRK Norway. WorldDMB members also elected two Vice-Presidents: Joan Warner, CEO of Commercial Radio Australia and Joachim Kraus of ARD Germany, as well as a new Steering Board.

A recurring theme at this year's event was the topic of Digital Switch Over (DSO), as more countries are making announcements and planning for a DSO. Keynote speaker at the event, Mark Dierikx, Director-General for Energy, Telecommunications and Competition from the Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs announced that the Dutch policy on digital radio includes switching off analogue radio, with a switch-off date of no later than 2023, providing certain criteria are fulfilled.

Delegates also heard about the significant progress that has been made in the automotive sector with most major automotive brands now offering line-fit DAB. In the UK 40% of new cars now have DAB as standard, and there are solutions available for all major manufacturers to convert existing cars to digital radio.

There was a major focus on the integration of digital radio into mobile phone handsets, a significant strategic objective for WorldDMB, which is offering technical support on a consistent user interface and coordinating initiatives in this area.

Incoming WorldDMB President, Patrick Hannon, said: "DAB / DAB+ is rapidly extending its footprint across Europe. The last two years have seen significant launches in Germany and the Netherlands, and, in the more mature markets (UK, Norway, Denmark and Switzerland), Digital Switchover is now firmly on the agenda. The progress in all these territories is building significant momentum across the continent. A similar story is emerging in the Asia Pacific region, where Australia is leading the way. Our key objectives now are to continue the roll-out of DAB into new markets and to accelerate the uptake of digital radio in cars and mobile phones. I look forward to working with all WorldDMB members to ensure we meet these goals."

**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.

For more information contact WorldDMB at [projectoffice@worlddab.org](mailto:projectoffice@worlddab.org)

[www.worlddab.org](http://www.worlddab.org)