

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **WorldDAB calls for protection of spectrum dedicated to broadcast radio**

**United Kingdom, Friday 13 November 2015**

Digital radio based on the DAB/DAB+ standard is fast becoming the core future platform for free-to-air radio in Europe and other regions around the world. GE06 anticipated these developments and ensured that sufficient spectrum in Band III was allocated to digital radio. It is essential that this allocation is retained.

In a growing number of countries, Band III is used to accommodate DAB / DAB+ digital radio services. As a result, it would be impractical to move free-to-air DTT services out of bands IV and V into band III (due to growing demands for this spectrum from mobile services).

The radio industry has already given up any claim to L Band spectrum. However, the international development of DAB / DAB+ means that broadcast radio must retain its spectrum allocation in Band III.

#### *International development of DAB*

Norway and Switzerland have already planned for Digital Switchover (DSO) between 2017 and 2024 which means that band III will become the most important sound broadcasting band in those countries.

Germany, Netherlands, UK, Denmark and Italy are taking steps to follow suit. Other markets taking early steps include Poland, France, Belgium, Czech Republic and Austria. Outside Europe, DAB+ in band III is well established in Australia, and a growing number of markets are embarking on trials, including South Africa, the Gulf States and Thailand.

Last week saw UK Minister of State for Culture and the Digital Economy, Ed Vaizey, and Dorothee Bär, German Parliamentary State Secretary at the Federal Ministry of Transport and Digital Infrastructure (BMVI), set out their shared vision for radio's digital future. Speaking at the WorldDAB General Assembly in London, the two Ministers emphasised their commitment to digital radio and the importance of working together to accelerate the growth of DAB in Europe.

**Patrick Hannon, President, WorldDAB** said:

“DAB digital radio is becoming firmly established as the core future platform for radio. Retaining Band III for radio is of critical importance both to listeners and to the long term health of the radio industry.

“We encourage spectrum regulators to recognise the benefits which digital terrestrial radio brings to listeners (e.g. greater choice and clearer quality reception) and also its ability to deliver reliable, free-to-air information to listeners on the move - especially in times of emergency.”

**-- Ends --**

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**About WorldDAB**

WorldDAB is the global industry forum for digital radio promoting DAB, DAB+ 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 WorldDAB 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+ Digital Radio transmitter, there are well over 1,000 services on air and several hundred models of receivers are available to market.

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