

## **CSA outlines plans for acceleration of DAB+ in France at WorldDAB General Assembly**

- *CSA confirms support for DAB+*
- *Norwegian digital switchover progressing to plan*
- *WorldDAB re-affirms call to stop selling analogue-only radios in Europe*

**7 November 2017, Paris, France:**

French regulator, Le Conseil Supérieur de l'Audiovisuel (CSA), today outlined its commitment to the success of DAB+ in France. Addressing over 200 delegates at the WorldDAB General Assembly in Paris, Nicolas Curien, Board Member in charge of radio at the CSA, described the measures being put in place to accelerate the roll-out of DAB+ in new cities and highways across the country.

Licences in Lyon and Strasbourg will be issued by the end of November 2017, while DAB+ services in the Hauts de France region will start in March or April next year. The CSA also announced it is accelerating the schedule for local and regional deployment – with plans for two successive calls, each covering 15 large, densely populated areas. The first is scheduled for the first half of 2018 and the second for the first half of 2019. The CSA is also investigating the possibility of a call for applications in 2018 for two national multiplexes, for which spectrum has already been set aside.

Nicolas Curien said: “I have two pieces of good news: the first is that the responses to the CSA’s public consultation have been numerous and extremely encouraging. The second is that there is no bad news: DAB+ technology will finally be able to take off significantly in mainland France by the end of 2020. The plan that I like to call ‘nodes and arcs’ is on the way to becoming reality.”

A second key focus of the General Assembly was on Norway, which completes the switch-off of its FM services next month. Delegates heard positive reports from the Norwegian regulator and public and private broadcasters. These messages were particularly relevant to Switzerland, which starts its own switch-off in 2020, and to other countries which are planning their future digital radio roadmaps.

Delegates also heard about the continuing progress of DAB in Europe and the growing number of trials taking place across Africa, the Middle East, Turkey and the Asia Pacific region. To date, over 60 million home and automotive DAB receivers have been sold worldwide.

Patrick Hannon, President, WorldDAB said: “DAB is well established as the core future platform for radio in Europe and beyond. Templates for success are firmly established and the FM switch-off in Norway sends a clear signal of what can be achieved. The developments we are seeing in France are equally encouraging and will provide a significant boost to the adoption of DAB+ internationally.”

In other presentations, WorldDAB once again called for European legislation that would require all new radio receivers (consumer and automotive) to incorporate both analogue and digital capability. This addresses a key concern of broadcasters over the speed at which they can build a digital audience, currently restricted by the sale of FM-only radios.

During the member-only session, a new steering board was elected by WorldDAB members and Patrick Hannon was re-elected as President for a further two years. Joan Warner from Commercial Radio Australia and Jacqueline Bierhorst from Digital Radio Netherlands were elected as Vice-Presidents.

This year's WorldDAB award for Outstanding Service was presented to Thomas Saner of SRG SSR, in recognition of his work on the introduction of DAB and DAB+ in Switzerland and his exceptional long service on the WorldDAB Steering Board.

Images and presentations from selected sessions are available on request.

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### **About WorldDAB**

WorldDAB is the global industry association responsible for defining and promoting DAB digital radio. By bringing together radio industry professionals, WorldDAB provides knowledge and expertise that helps countries successfully adopt and implement broadcast digital radio.

Our 1200+ experts from 98 member organisations cover 27 countries across the globe and include public and commercial broadcasters, regulators, network providers and manufacturers of receivers, chips, professional equipment and automobiles.

Together, we are shaping the future of radio, delivering advice and tailored solutions on all aspects of the switch from analogue to digital.

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