

MUXNET UK

Supporting Small Scale DAB

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Muxnet UK celebrates the 50th Small Scale DAB launch

Muxnet UK is celebrating helping to launch the UK's 50th Small Scale DAB multiplex in Shropshire on Monday 11th March.

The first Small Scale DAB multiplex went on air in December 2021, and there has been a steady pace of launches, reaching the 50th landmark in just over 2 years. The new DAB multiplexes have been licensed across the country, ranging from large city-based multiplexes bringing tens of new radio stations to listeners, to more rural multiplexes. The rate of licensing and build has exceeded the speed of previous licensing initiatives, meaning community and small stations can start their migration from analogue to digital at a time where RAJAR shows analogue listening decline is accelerating.

Muxnet UK is one of a group of organisations working with local broadcasters and community groups to help them realise launching their own Small Scale DAB multiplexes, and finding new radio services to join these new multiplexes. By using innovative technologies and approaches, the cost of building small scale digital radio multiplexes is realistic and comparable to similar community radio analogue transmission infrastructure.

Muxnet's Technology lead, Nick Piggott, has been involved with DAB Digital Radio since its first UK trials in the late 1990s, and has been a longstanding champion of using innovative technologies and techniques to make DAB as accessible to broadcasters as FM has been. He said:

"I'm pleased that we're realising a belief and a commitment that digital radio could be done better, and more cost-effectively, without compromising existing services or technical quality. Small Scale DAB has delivered more innovation in 2 years than the legacy approach has in the preceding 20. It really is a platform that is accessible to every kind of radio service".

The Small Scale DAB licensing programme continues with the Round Four services launching during 2024, the results of a major licensing round in London & the South East expected soon, and a further wave of more than 25 licences to be advertised in April.

ENDS

About Muxnet UK: Muxnet UK helps broadcasters assess and apply for small scale DAB multiplex licences, and build out the required infrastructure. Muxnet UK is a collaboration between digital radio industry stalwarts Matt Deegam, Gregory Watson and Nick Piggott.



Small Scale DAB Antenna Array