

DAB+ - opportunity for Africa

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What is DAB radio?



- Digital Audio Broadcasting
 - digital terrestrial radio
 - Band III spectrum
- DAB: ~10 services on single frequency (multiplex)
- DAB+: ~18 services per frequency



DAB+ established as core future platform for radio in Europe



DAB+ established as core future platform for radio in Europe – and Australia



Around the world, interest in DAB+ is growing



First steps in Africa and Middle East



Regular services



Trials



South Africa



Algeria

What is driving this change?



FM spectrum is full



- No capacity to expand
- Impossible to innovate



Online players are entering radio's space



Important to ensure regulated radio services retain their position with local audiences



Essential to optimise the broadcast experience



- For consumers
- For broadcasters
- For society



DAB+ offers greater choice – on average, six times as many services

National radio services





DAB offers clearer sound - particularly where FM is overcrowded





DAB+ offers text and graphics



Makes radio more appealing to listeners



DAB+ brings major benefits to society



- Reliable in times of emergency
- DAB+ receivers now fitted with alarm features as standard



DAB is the green solution



- DAB+ consumes significantly less energy than FM
- BBC study shows DAB is 33% more efficient than FM¹
- German study shows similar results



https://www.bbc.co.uk/rd/publications/research-393-energy-footprint-bbc-radio-environment-impact-sustainability

https://www.blm.de/aktivitaeten/forschung/green-radio.cfm

Why now?



Over 100 million receivers (consumer / automotive) have been sold

Cumulative DAB sales: 110 million



Sources: WorldDAB, GfK, JATO, national industry associations

Consumer receivers are mass market



- Prices from US\$20
- Sony, Panasonic, Yamaha and many more



New car radios: digital radio as standard



European Electronic Communications Code

• From end 2020, all new car radios in EU & UK must be able to receive digital terrestrial radio



All major automotive manufacturers support DAB+





DAB+ is key to securing radio's long-term position in the car



- Start with DAB+ broadcast
- Optimise the experience
- Use DAB+ as gateway to hybrid radio future



Spectrum efficiency and preparing to launch



DAB+ is spectrum and power efficient



- Provides best trade-off of spectrum efficiency and power efficiency
- Spectrum efficiency
 - use of Single Frequency Networks
 - modern modulation and coding
 - more services in limited available bandwidth
- Power efficiency
 - DAB+ provides a very robust signal to deliver radio in difficult environments
 - provides services to distant receivers
- Ensures Regulators deliver best use of valuable spectrum a finite resource



Band III spectrum is available



- Most countries will vacate Band III during DTT ASO making it available for Digital Radio
- DTT ASO complete in over 14 African countries
 - including Algeria, Tunisia, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, Morocco, Mauritius
 - many others in process of completing transition to DTT and are planning ASO
- DAB+ trials can take place before ASO



DAB+ offers lower distribution costs

Annual cost to broadcasters of transmission per service¹, US\$k

FM DAB+ 88 -80% -80% 35 17 7

Regional site

Metro site



Source: Total operating costs sourced from broadcasters and network operators

Note (1) Operating costs for DAB+ assumes 18 services on multiplex; opex includes site and tower leases, power, telco, maintenance, monitoring and support costs

Efficiency gains:

costs and spectrum

The overall DAB adoption process





Initial investigations and research



- Research is usually conducted by a group of nominated individuals who then report back to stakeholders
- Who are the stakeholders?
 - the Public Service Broadcaster, the Government communications Regulator and commercial service providers
 - establish a cross industry working group
- Research comes in a range of forms
 - webinars / workshops
 - standards reviews
 - discussions with other organisations



DAB+ trials

DAB+ technical trials provide a range of uses

- Learn how to construct and configure a basic DAB system
 - Usually a single transmission site
- Learn how to provide audio and metadata feeds including hybrid radio
- Test the coverage of the transmission and compare with predicted coverage
- Test and demonstrate DAB+ features to stakeholders
- Trial systems can be moved between locations to help understand the impact of different types of terrain
- Ongoing trials can be used as a pre-cursor to permanent services







Support to broadcasters

- Regulation
- Licensing
- Technical trials
- Network build out
- Best business case scenarios
- Cost modelling
- Receiver legislation
- Production of new digital radio content
- Marketing



Tailored technical advice

- RF coverage planning
- RF interference analysis
- International frequency coordination
- Technical business case and cost analysis
- Rollout strategies
- Field testing
- DAB multiplexing and input processing
- DAB network design and operation
- DAB features
- Hybrid radio and PAD systems
- Receivers domestic and automotive





Participate and network

- Participate in WorldDAB Committees, Working Groups and Task Forces
- Attend WorldDAB member events
- Reach customers with with targeted networking opportunities
- Free or discounted admission at other organisation's industry events
- Speaking opportunities



Resources

- ETI library samples of live on-air ensembles from different countries
- Strategic information on country roll out plans, coverage maps, presentations and tailored research from industry experts
- SharePoint online member document sharing tool
- Member directory





Workshops and seminars

- We work in partnership with ABU
- Physical and virtual events
- Topics tailored to audience needs
- Dedicated technical seminars led by experienced DAB engineers
- Information on all aspects of deploying DAB



Conferences

- Bringing together industry professionals from established and emerging markets
- 230+ delegates from 30+ countries
- Market updates and insights
- Unique auto focused events
- Networking with peers around the globe
- Exhibition connecting buyers with providers of DAB equipment and solutions





How green is DAB digital radio? 12.01.2022 - Rein-hoeren.de Member of National Broadcasting Council optimistic

about DAB+ 11.01.2022 - Wirtualnemedia.pl



- Feb Radio's role in cars of the future
- Feb EBU Digital Radio Summit

For more information

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Or email to

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Key to success is collaboration

The Five Cs





Conclusions





DAB+ established as core future platform for broadcast radio



Significant benefits for listeners, broadcasters and society



Receiver market is mature – now is the time for action

