

## The World DAB Forum Newsletter

### N.30 - March 2004

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#### **CONTENTS**

**3GSM 2004 Roundup:** WorldDAB and Co-Exhibitors at 3GSM 2004!

**Other WorldDAB News:** DAB Java Xlet, Marketing Committee Workshop, WorldDAB EPG Field Trials

**News from Sweden:** expansion of DAB in Sweden

**News from Italy:** new transmitters across the country

**News from France:** legal framework for DAB proposed

**News from the Netherlands:** Dutch national public service broadcaster launches DAB transmissions

**New Products:** Philips, Intempo Digital, BUSH, Cambridge Audio, PURE Digital

**Car Round-up:** Lotus, Opel/Vauxhall Astra, Daewoo, TVR, Ford, Mitsubishi, Hyundai

**Advance News on CeBIT 2004**

**Technology News:** Harris, Factum, RadioScape, Unique, Frontier Silicon

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#### **WorldDAB @ 3GSM 2004 ROUNDUP:**

DAB Digital Radio had a significant presence at this year's 3GSM Congress in Cannes, (February 23 – 26) as the industry looked at integration of DAB technology in mobile devices. WorldDAB hosted a stand, along with leading proponents of Digital Audio Broadcasting, where integration was the proposal on offer to their Telecoms counterparts. Addressing the Congress, WorldDAB President, Annika Nyberg told delegates that DAB and mobile technology is the perfect match, with a combination of strengths that can present consumers with the ultimate in hand-held devices. Her presentation was followed by a press conference attended by members of the international telecoms press. Co-exhibitors on the WorldDAB stand were Frontier Silicon, Imagination Technologies, Livetime, NTL:broadcast, RadioScape Ltd., Samsung Electronics and The Technology Partnership. They provided an end-to-end insight into the benefits of combining DAB and mobile technologies: from chip integration into handsets, through to content and network providers.

The stand attracted much attention and, throughout the event, there was a buzz of constant activity. Meetings were held with key companies in the telecoms world, both handset manufacturers and operators. By the end of the week, DAB digital radio's profile was riding high with the telecoms industry.

For more information on this event or further contact with companies that co-exhibited, please contact [Lisette Cooper](mailto:Lisette.Cooper@worlddab.org).

The full press release can also be viewed [here](#).

[<Return to Top>](#)

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#### **OTHER WORLD DAB NEWS:**

##### **DAB JAVA XLET**

The WorldDAB Technical Committee has overseen a Task Force that has developed a specification for a DAB Java Virtual Machine. Sony has developed a DAB Java Xlet Player exclusively available for WorldDAB members. To access the application software, contact Mr Frank Dawidowsky at Sony at [dawidowsky@sony.de](mailto:dawidowsky@sony.de)

##### **MARKETING COMMITTEE WORKSHOP**

The WorldDAB Marketing Committee is organising a workshop entitled "Christmas 2004 – Marketing DAB Digital Radio." The event will target European retailers and marketing representatives amongst WorldDAB members. Further details will be distributed to WorldDAB members soon.

##### **WORLD DAB EPG FIELD TRIALS**

Stage one of the WorldDAB EPG Field Trials are due to begin in March 2004 in selected areas of the UK, Germany and Canada.

Please contact the WorldDAB Project Office for further information on any of the above at [cooper@worlddab.org](mailto:cooper@worlddab.org)

[<Return to Top>](#)

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#### **NEWS FROM SWEDEN:**

The Swedish Parliament's Committee on Digital Radio has sanctioned a gradual expansion of digital radio in Sweden. The proposal allocates a national multiplex to Swedish Radio (the public broadcaster) and the majority of capacity on 19 regional DAB ensembles to commercial broadcasters. A new evaluation in 2008 will determine how well the radio industry has succeeded in attracting Swedish radio listeners to digital radio.

The report adds that the transition from analogue FM to digital radio will probably take another 15 years. Swedish Radio's DAB coverage in Sweden currently stands at 35% of the population; commercial radio is not yet available on DAB.

For the full press release click [here](#)

[<Return to Top>](#)

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### **NEWS FROM ITALY:**

Italy continues to expand its DAB coverage as new transmitters are launched in the Florence, Val D'Arno and Arezzo areas of Tuscany. This brings DAB stations to around 1.5 million potential listeners. Next on air will be Palermo, followed by Perugia and Pisa.

Please contact Luca Viscardi for further information at [lucaviscardi@rtl.it](mailto:lucaviscardi@rtl.it)

Also in Italy, Club DAB Italy have received authorisation for 16 transmitters which will start to build a national multiplex network in Band III over the coming months.

Please contact Hanns Wolter for further information at [wolter@ma.it](mailto:wolter@ma.it)

[<Return to Top>](#)

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### **NEWS FROM FRANCE:**

A new bill relating to electronic and audio-visual communications has been voted on by the French National Assembly. One important step this legislation takes is to set up the conditions required for launching digital radio in France by proposing a permanent legal framework.

To read the full press release distributed earlier this month please click [here](#)

[<Return to Top>](#)

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### **NEWS FROM THE NETHERLANDS:**

NOS, the Dutch national public service broadcaster has launched regular DAB transmissions of its stations Radio 1, 2 and 3FM. By December 2004, NOS stations, along with additional services, will be available to listeners in the western and central part of the country. Eventually, the entire Netherlands will be covered by a single frequency network.

Throughout 2004, the government will allocate DAB licences to commercial broadcasters, and it is expected that retail sales of DAB radios in the Dutch market will now become available.

For the full press release click [here](#)

[<Return to Top>](#)

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### **NEW PRODUCTS:**

\* Philips becomes the first major CE brand to launch a portable DAB radio. The DA1000 also delivers FM. Powered by two rechargeable AA batteries that offer up to ten hours of playback after charges, the DA1000 can also be driven directly by the mains. In UK stores from February, the DA1000 will have an expected selling price of 207 Euros. Click [here](#) for more information

\* This year, Intempo Digital will launch a new range of DAB digital radio products. It will include the KT-01, a band III DAB/FM stereo radio both mains and battery powered. A tri-band version (with both Band III and L Band capacity) will also be available for sale in countries such as Canada. The radio comes in two versions, the KT-01 is pink and the KTB-01 is grey. Please visit [www.intempo-digital.co.uk](http://www.intempo-digital.co.uk) for more information.

\* Bush has launched its new PSDAB2003. Smaller than a pack of cards, powered by two standard AA batteries the latest DAB radio from bush gives up to 12 hours continuous listening. Available in UK stores at the end of February, at an affordable 150 Euros. Visit [www.bush-digital.co.uk](http://www.bush-digital.co.uk) for more information

\* Coming soon, a new tri-band hi-fi tuner from Cambridge Audio. The Azur 640T builds on the success of the company's DAB300 and DAB500 tuners, and delivers both DAB and FM broadcasts in Band III and L-Band reception. Visit [www.cambridgeaudio.com](http://www.cambridgeaudio.com) for more information.

\* PURE Digital has announced the impending arrival of its new Legato DAB/FM/CD Micro System. This system also integrates MP3 playback and has pause and rewind capability. Expected in stores this summer (2004), the Legato will retail around 520 Euros. Please visit [www.pure-digital.com](http://www.pure-digital.com) for more information.

For further details on DAB products, please contact Lisette Cooper at the Project Office at [cooper@worlddab.org](mailto:cooper@worlddab.org)

[<Return to Top>](#)

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### **NEW MANUFACTURER:**

Sharp has formally announced its intention to enter the DAB Digital Radio market in the UK. Sharp will launch a kitchen portable-style DAB radio in the UK in the second quarter of 2004, to be followed by a wider range of products later in the year and into 2005. The company has chosen the UK specifically to introduce its first DAB radio due to the impressive consumer take-up of DAB in the market and excellent prospects for further growth, coupled with the support of the technology by the BBC and several major commercial radio broadcast groups under the Digital Radio Development Bureau (DRDB) banner.

Please click [here](#) for the full press release

[<Return to Top>](#)

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### **CAR ROUNDUP:**

Lotus is the latest in a growing list of car manufacturers to offer DAB digital radio as an upgrade. The new Lotus Elise 111R offers the Blaupunkt Woodstock DAB53 digital radio with CD-R/W and MP3 player as an upgrade as part of its Touring Pack of options.

DAB will also be available on the new Opel/Vauxhall Astra; Daewoo's new Lacetti; TVR already has DAB as an option on four of its models; and Ford offers a DAB upgrade on all its UK range. In Singapore, Mitsubishi and Hyundai continue to make DAB available in their cars.

Click [here](#) for the full press release

[<Return to Top>](#)

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### **ADVANCE NEWS ON CeBIT 2004:**

The first combined DRM/DAB product will be launched at CeBIT this year (March 18 – 24). Visit hall 25, booth 30/2 for more on the brand, manufacturer and price. Please also visit [www.worldcast.de](http://www.worldcast.de) for further details.

[<Return to Top>](#)

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### **TECHNOLOGY NEWS:**

\* Harris Corporation has launched a new DAB product that will handle the broadcast of digital television services for mobile or handheld terminal over DAB digital radio broadcasting. Harris' D-MOVIN DAB module for video insertion has been designed to broadcast Korean T-DMB video services inside a DAB transmission system. With D-MOVIN, broadcasters can transport MPEG-4 AVC video in an MPEG2-TS stream over DAB independent data channels.

For more information please contact Becky Smith at [becky@ella-beck.co.uk](mailto:becky@ella-beck.co.uk)

\* Canada's national public service broadcaster, CBC Radio Canada, will use RadioScape's Professional DAB Broadcast System for the first multiplex in an upgrade rollout to be located in Vancouver. For more information please contact Nigel Oakley at [nigel.oakley@radioscape.com](mailto:nigel.oakley@radioscape.com) or click [here](#) for the full press release

\* Factum Electronics AB has won a contract to supply equipment for digital radio to the Italian radio broadcasting consortium, EuroDAB. Factum Electronics will deliver systems based on its modular architecture, including audio encoders, data transmissions, multiplexers and management systems. Please contact Patrik Olsson at [patrik.olsson@factum.se](mailto:patrik.olsson@factum.se) for more information or click [here](#) for the full press release

\* Unique Interactive has signed a three-year deal to supply its DAB digital radio Scrolling Text software ManDLS to the BBC for local English stations. Listeners to BBC local broadcasts on DAB can read the latest news, sport, travel and weather headlines, continually updated 14-hours a day. In a separate deal, ManDLS will also be used by Digital Radio Broadcasting Australia Pty Ltd across 12 trial audio services on a pilot-broadcasting scheme using DAB digital radio in Sydney. Click [here](#) for the press release.

Unique has also announced that it has signed an agreement with the Canadian public broadcaster CBC Radio-Canada to launch a DAB Electronic Programme Guide (EPG) channel on their multiplex in Montreal. The experimental service will launch later this month and will enable DAB listeners to access programme listings for their favourite CBC services up to seven days in advance. Click [here](#) for the full press release.

Please contact Giacomo Shimmings at [giacomo.shimmings@unique.com](mailto:giacomo.shimmings@unique.com) for more information.

\* Two of the leading companies in DAB module development and marketing have announced new tri-band modules supporting L-Band DAB, Band III DAB and FM:

- Frontier Silicon has launched Venice 2, a highly integrated module for Band III, L-Band and VHF radios which, it says, will enable the first €99 DAB digital radios in Europe. Click [here](#) to view the full press release.

- RadioScape's tri-band software defined module for DAB is the RS250H, priced at \$49 in volume quantities. Click [here](#) for the full press release.

\* Frontier Silicon has also announced, in partnership with Samsung Electro-Mechanics, a DAB solution for integration into mobile handsets. A miniature low power DAB receiver module specifically targeted for integration into mobile phone handsets and other communications devices such as PDAs and smartphones was unveiled at the 3GSM event in Cannes. View the full press release [here](#).

\* Frontier Silicon has also announced it will support the emerging Digital Multimedia Broadcast (DMB) specification being developed in Korea to enable broadcasts through hand-held terminals such as mobile phones and personal digital assistants (PDAs). The company's Chorus DAB and multimedia processor is at the heart of Frontier's DMB solution. Click [here](#) for the full press release. For further information on Frontier Silicon please contact Nitin Dahad at [Nitin@TechSpark.com](mailto:Nitin@TechSpark.com)

\* RadioScape demonstrated live end-to-end multimedia broadcast and receiver technology at 3GSM in Cannes. The system delivers data and video to mobile phones using the Eureka 147 DAB digital radio standard via DMB (Digital Multimedia Broadcast). Delivery was to Samsung and RadioScape prototype DMB receivers. Click [here](#) for the full press release. For more information on RadioScape please contact Nigel Oakley at [nigel.oakley@radioscape.com](mailto:nigel.oakley@radioscape.com)  
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