



59. Issue / January 2008

Dear ###USER_first_name### ###USER_last_name###,

Dear ###USER_first_name### ###USER_last_name###,

at the beginning of the new year a decision with far-reaching consequences is expected. On the 21st of January KEF (the Commission for the identification of the financial requirements of the broadcasting stations) will publish their report including a proposal for an increased licence fee from 2009. The new settlement will have a great impact on the financial volume that the broadcasting stations will have at their disposal over the next years in order to realize their digitization plans. You will read it first here - so stay tuned.

Best regards

Wolfgang Paulus

RECEIVER



Revo presents first `Hybrid` Radio

18.12.2007 [Lanark] Revo from Scotland have launched `BLIK RadioStation`, a new radio that receives various formats, i.e. besides the conventional FM stations also DAB and DAB+ as well as web radio stations. The recommended price in the UK is around 149,95 GBP.

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PURE is dreaming of a green Christmas

13.12.07 [London] PURE has expanded its EcoPlus range in time for Christmas to include fifteen radios with reduced environmental impact. EcoPlus sets the bar for reduced power consumption, use of materials from recycled and sustainable sources. "The only environmental impact our customers want to have this Christmas is a little noise pollution as they blast out the festive hits," said PURE General Manager, Paul Smith.

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PROGRAMM



ARD and ZDF to broadcast also on DVB-H platform

18.12.07 [Saarbrücken] Public broadcasters ARD with "Das Erste" and ZDF with their basic programming schedule will be joining the DVB-H channel line-up. This service on the new DVB-H platform – alongside that via DMB - will be provided free throughout Germany. The launch of the new platform is to coincide with the start of the Football European Championship in 2008. The contract between ARD, ZDF and Mobile 3.0 has been concluded for a duration of two years within the framework of the DVB-H pilot project of the regulating authorities of the regional states.

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Deutschlandradio: Agenda 2008

12.12.07 [Köln] Once the Business Plan 2008 approved the Board of Directors of Deutschlandfunk also discussed the digital services of Deutschlandradio. Since the announcement of plans of KEF, to cut funding for DAB this has become a burning issue. According to the head of the financing committee, Dr. Erwin Vetter, Deutschlandradio will be hit hardest by such a decision: „On the one hand Deutschlandfunk and Deutschlandradio Kultur are lacking spectrum. On the other hand the media representatives from politics of the German federal states keep reiterating that the digital technology means overall nation-wide coverage.

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Non-Stop Xmas at Touch FM

12.12.07 [Coventry] CN Group station 96.2 Touch FM in Coventry has flipped to an all Christmas format - for listeners on DAB digital radio. Programmes on FM will remain as normal, and will re-appear on DAB on Boxing Day. Steve Hyden, programme controller, said: "We're feeling festive and wanted to share lots of Christmas cheer with our listeners. We'll be running other special music features on DAB in 2008, so if you don't yet have a DAB digital radio, perhaps Santa will bring you one".

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Swiss parliament grants SRG new licence

06.12.12 [Bern] The Bundesrat (the Swiss executive) has renewed the SRG licence for a further 10 years. The licence expressly commits SRG to engage first and foremost in primary tasks, i.e. information, culture and education. The SRG 'service public' continues to be based on the full service programme in audio and TV broadcasting. The licence contains a list of current licence services, channel name and transmission mode.

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COVERAGE



Isle of Man receives DAB

[London] More than 30,000 people on the Isle of Man can now receive BBC digital radio, with the addition of the Douglas & Castletown transmitter to the BBC's expanding U.K. digital radio network. Digital radio listeners will be able to tune in to the BBC's portfolio of digital-only stations – 1Xtra, Five Live Sports Extra, 6 Music, BBC 7 and the Asian Network – as well as the BBC's existing national radio stations – Radio 1, Radio 2, Radio 3, Radio 4, Radio 5 live and the World Service.

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Bern gains strength with DAB

13.12.07 [Bern] The Swiss have established a new DAB transmitter on Ulmizberg (in the canton of Bern). The wider area in and around the city of Bern is now supplied with DAB on two fronts: One antenna radiates DAB services from Bantiger transmission tower, the other one from the television tower on Ulmizberg. This considerably improves DAB reception for the Bern citizens. Meanwhile, 12 DAB only stations of SRG SSR idée suisse are on air – more than twice as many on FM band.

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MISCELLANEOUS



European Nations ask the Commission to let the market decide

12.12.07 [London] WorldDMB welcomes indications that Commissioner Reding has decided not to follow through on her threat of mandation for one mobile TV standard in Europe. In an address to European MEPs Reding emphasised the importance of European technology in the growth of mobile TV in the region. Using EU regulation to choose standards in the media industry would jeopardise technological innovation, reduce consumer choice, threaten European radio and reduce the freedom of choice for existing and perspective providers of mobile TV.

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Sharp criticism against KEF

12.12.07 [Halle/Saale] The current issue of the magazine ‚Meinungsbarometer Digitaler Rundfunk‘ largely deals with the decision process of KEF (commission of the identification of the financial requirements of the broadcasting stations). Professor Dr. Horst M. Schellhaaß, the Director of the Institute for broadcasting financing at the University of Cologne, expresses concern that the KEF approach would have a negative impact on the technological development of audio broadcasting in Germany. In his words, the announced cut of funds would entail „a standstill of the digital technology“. He calls on the Prime Minister of the Bavarian Government to intervene in order to drive the introduction of DAB.

[more](#)



BBC starts promotion for DAB

06.12.07 [London] From December 1 – 24 the BBC is running a promotion campaign on TV, radio and online. The motto is 'Give something this Christmas that will be loved. Give a DAB digital radio'. Two 30-second-spots are shown throughout December on BBC1, BBC2, BBC3 and BBC4 television. The campaign will also be covered on Radios 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 live. Moreover, it is the largest campaign run by the BBC this year. Alongside, two banners are appearing on the internet. Statistically, this campaign reaches more than 47 million people.

[more](#)



10 things you never knew about DAB

06.12.07 [London] A webpage a last provides the answers to anything you have always wanted to know about DAB: e.g. the average age of a DAB Digital Radio owner, the most expensive Digital Radio receiver ever sold, the ethnic group in the UK more likely than any other group to be DAB Digital Radio owners, the perfect length for a DAB Digital Radio aerial, or why Digital Radio owners live longer and happier lives than their analogue counterparts.

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IMDR's annual review

05.12.07 [Bonn] IMDR (Initiative Marketing Digital Radio) has drawn a positive balance for 2007. According to IMDR the year following the RRC 06 has entailed important decisions with far-reaching consequences. In 2008 there is no change in the managing board: Helmut Egenbauer from T-Systems, Media&Broadcast, remains at the top of the executive committee, with Helmut Lesch from Bayerischer Rundfunk as his deputy. Further members of the board of management are: Werner Felten (entrepreneur), Roman Kuhr (Visteon Corporation) and Michael Richter from Digital Radio Mitteldeutschland e.V.

[more](#)



New Business Models for digital radio broadcasting

04.12.07 [München] On behalf of BLM, Goldmedia GmbH has undertaken a study on 'business models for audio broadcasting in the digital age'. Almost 90% of the 100 German radio broadcasters interviewed by Goldmedia expect digital audio broadcasting to become a further future media brand of its own. The BLM President, Wolf-Dieter Ring, comes to the following conclusion: „This study shows that the radio broadcasters are well aware that the evolution of Digital Radio is key in the future digital media world.“

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Events

24.04.08-27.04.08

High End 2008

München

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