



News



January 2007

An info service of Bayern Digital Radio GmbH

Dear Sir or Madam,
just before the end of the year the public controversy around the planned new standard for DAB created a heavy turbulence in the industry, a controversy deemed needless, uncoordinated and – according to many - premature . With a few days to go until Christmas, a clear signal was sent out from München. In a statement public broadcaster Bayerischer Rundfunk explicitly declared to comply with the current standard. Moreover, the representatives of the commercial radio stations agree to this. Hopefully, this commitment will encourage the broadcasters in the other regional states. Only by adopting a common stance rapid progress can be achieved.

With kind regards
Wolfgang Paulus

Content

- ▼ Special
- ▼ Receiver
- ▼ Programme
- ▼ Miscellaneous

Special

Clear Signals for standard continuity

[München – 20.12.06] Bayerischer Rundfunk is determined to maintain the current DAB standard and will continue to broadcast its current programme bouquet as well as other services for Digital Radio in compliance with the current DAB standard. Neither VBL (Verband Bayerischer Lokalrundfunk, an association of Bavarian local radio broadcasters) sees an urgency to introduce a new audio coding standard and thereby create uncertainty and concern in the industry. Because of the long-term development cycles in the automobile industry, both AUDI and BMW take an appropriate transition period before the introduction of a new standard for granted, anyhow. For the complete [press release](#) including photos please click [here](#).



Receiver

New home receiver from TEAC

[Wiesbaden – 14.12.06] TEAC (Tokyo Electro-Acoustic Company) are launching a new Digital Radio home receiver on the German market. The T-R610DAB is an FM/DAB Stereo Tuner with frequency band III as well as L-Band. Further features: dimmable dot-matrix display, sleep timer, analogue audio input, coaxial cinch digital output and remote control. The manufacturer's suggested retail price is 299 EUR. More information [here](#).



Cellphone is becoming a multimedia center

[Köln – 06.12.06] A survey conducted by eco Verband der deutschen Internetwirtschaft (the registered association of German internet enterprises) showed that mobile phones will take over more and more functions related to media consumption. At any rate, 15 per cent of all experts assume that in future the cellphone will "frequently" assume the role of television-on-the-go, another 69 per cent believe that this will at least happen "occasionally". As for the contents, news, sports and music videos will play the most important role. Click here for the entire [press release](#).



Programme

Green light for digital programmes

[München – 20.12.06] The public broadcasters and the media authorities have agreed on guidelines concerning the frequency usage. In accordance with these guidelines the frequencies - which were allotted to Germany at the RRC06 - can now be used. Based on this agreement sufficient frequencies are available for DAB, DVB-T as well as DMB and DVB-H. For the complete text please click [here](#).



Documentation channel of the national radio

[Cologne – 18.12.06] From now on, Deutschlandradio will be offering an additional programme via Digital Radio to be received throughout the whole of Germany. Under the title „D-Plus – the documentation channel of Deutschlandfunk and Deutschlandradio Kultur“ a large number of special transmissions from radio and television will be repeated Monday to Friday from 9.00 h to 13.00 h. The General Director of Deutschlandradio Ernst Elitz: „D-Plus creates a distinct added value for the licence fee payers“. At the same time, Deutschlandradio will offer an additional as well as necessary incentive for listening to DAB programmes, thus promoting its spread. More information [here](#).



watcha is presenting a premiere

[Düsseldorf – 18.12.06] For the first time in the history of German mobile television, on Boxing Day, ProSiebenSat1 Mobile will broadcast the lavishly animated football comedy „Deutsche 11 Backstage“ of the independent animated film producer scopas Medien AG in a format which was specially produced for cellphones. D11B is a satire revolving around the German national football team – from the fan, for the fan. According to watcha, this parody of the World Championship documentary „Deutschland ein Sommermärchen – Germany, a summer’s fairy tale“ will finally show us everything Sönke Wortmann remained silent about. More information [here](#).



Miscellaneous

Technical standard for Cellphone TV still open

[Hamburg – 14.12.06] No decision on any further technical standards for Cellphone TV in Germany has been taken yet, nor have any agreements been made. The Department of Economy and Labour in Hamburg corrected an article which the Financial Times in Germany had published on 8 December, 2006, with a corresponding [press release](#), saying that the impression which had been created, i.e. a certain standard (and thus, as the case may be, a certain provider) was preferred by the public authorities, was incorrect.



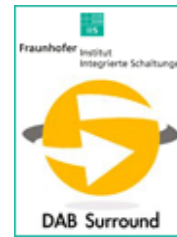
IMDR on the discussion about HE AAC v2

[Bonn – 13.12.06] In the course of the current discussion about the introduction of an additional audio coding procedure in the DAB Standard, the Initiative Marketing Digital Radio (IMDR) calls upon all parties involved to present the necessary preparatory and introductory times for these welcome developments in a realistic way and to keep an eye on the trust of consumers and industry in the re-usability of previously made investments. To this effect, IMDR has compiled the relevant facts from its point of view. Click here for the entire [press release](#).



FhG IIS presents new audio codecs

[Erlangen – 01.12.06] At the beginning of December, the Fraunhofer-Institut für Integrierte Schaltungen IIS (Fraunhofer Institute for Integrated Circuits) shows the latest audio codecs for digital radio in Erlangen. They include MPEG-4 HE-AAC and MPEG Surround, two standards which were recently introduced by WorldDMB. They enable new DAB functions and are thus useful additions to the radio system which has been purely based on MPEG Layer-2 up to now. They are completely compatible with all current and future DAB systems. Click here for the entire [press release](#).



Digitisation as a main emphasis of ARD

[München – 29.11.06] The designated ARD Chairman and Director of the Saarländischer Rundfunk (SR), Fritz Raff, said that one of the greatest challenges of the years to come was to let the audience of [ARD](#) participate in the advantages of the digital future. Also in the ARD yearbook 2006, the digitisation of radio is the most important subject matter in the articles section.



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