

**Consultation on Spectrum for Multimedia
Broadcasting Services
of the
Radio Spectrum policy Group**

Comments

from

Swedish Radio

Stockholm, 12 July 2006

Swedish Radio the Swedish public service broadcaster and member of WorldDAB, the international forum for Digital Broadcasting based on the Eureka 147 standard, follows closely the review process undertaken by the EU regulatory framework for multimedia broadcasting services. To this end, Swedish Radio welcomes the invitation to send preliminary comments designed to inform the Commission's thinking in preparing its report on the functioning of this regulatory framework.

Agenda Item 3 - International Regulatory Context

Swedish Radio shares the Commission's views expressed regarding the possibilities to enhance the sound broadcasting services by using Band III (174-230 MHz) and the L-Band (1452-1392 MHz) for multimedia services based on the Eureka 147 technology.

174-230 MHz (VHF- band III)

Band III is already in use in some European countries and will become more fully available by 2015 in accordance with the GE06 Agreement. The GE06 plan is based on 7 MHz raster and is planned in Europe for at least indoor portable reception. The plan opens up opportunities for a structured introduction of T-DAB services in all of Europe and other ITU Region 1 countries.

The mask concept, as expressed in the GE06 Agreement and in the declaration to that Agreement, makes it possible for flexible use by services other than T-DAB and DVB-T. Even the possibility to use DVB-T entries in the plan to achieve 4 T-DAB services is foreseen.

The Eureka 147 technology provides traffic and safety information (TPEG), mobile television broadcasting and data transmissions (DMB) and digital radio (DAB). These can be free to air or provided on a subscription basis enabling the transfer of video, audio and other multimedia content onto mobile and portable devices such as mobile phones and PDAs. DMB and DAB can be rolled out immediately on both a European and global basis. They benefit from a wide range of commercial receivers and a much lower cost, lower risk infrastructure, when compared to other technologies. The cultural, social and democratic benefits which free-to-air or low-cost digital broadcasting brings are undiminished in the converging world of multimedia and the knowledge society.

It is the view of the Swedish Radio that this band should, in the first instance be used primarily for the introduction and development of T-DAB services using the proven European developed Eureka 147 platform.

1452-1492 (L-Band)

L-Band spectrum is already available for broadcasting services using the Eureka 147 platform. This is reflected in the allotment of 1.7 MHz frequency blocks as contained within the current Maastricht Special Arrangement. It is the view of the WorldDAB Forum that there should be no general constraint to use the band for T-DMB services. The possibilities to use this band for other radiocommunication services are guided by Article 6 of the Maastricht Special Arrangement. The notification of such use to the ITU Radiocommunication Bureau is carried out in accordance with Article 11 of the Radio Regulations.

This band is increasingly being used for T-DAB services today and will become more important for future broadcast multimedia developments. This could readily be achieved by the use of T-DMB services, which are currently being commercially undertaken in Germany using the L-Band frequency.

It is the view of the Swedish Radio that the future use of L-Band for multimedia services must include the use of the proven European Eureka 147 family of standards.

Swedish Radio also finds this extremely important for the possibilities for the public service radio in Sweden to fulfill its important remit, although there for the moment is no decisions taken upon the future digital mobile distribution of radio, but a consultation is going on performed by the the Swedish Radio and TV Authority which is a national authority for the media sector. The

Authority reports to the Ministry of Education and Culture. The Authority grants licences, give information and monitors developments in the media field. This consultation called, The future of radio, shall be finished in June 2008.

Swedish Radio will also refer to the comments from EBU – European Broadcasting Union

Swedish Radio

**Peter Örn
Director General**

Stockholm 12.07.06

About Swedish Radio

Sveriges Radio (Swedish Radio) is the public service radio broadcaster in Sweden. The Swedish public service media sector consists of three separate and independent companies, Sveriges Radio (SR), Sveriges Television (SVT) and Utbildningsradion (UR, the Educational Broadcasting Company).

All three companies are owned by a foundation and entirely funded by licence fees.

Advertising is not permitted.

Swedish Radio broadcasts programmes on 4 national channels – P1, P2, P3, P4 – and 26 regional channels across the country. SR also broadcasts on P6 International and P7 Sisuradio as well as on experimental channels via Digital Radio and the Internet. SR is an independent and a limited liability company. However, its programming and other activities must comply with the conditions of the Licence granted to SR by the government, as well as the provisions of the Radio and Television Act.

The company has a market share of 65 percent.