

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

*Comments*

*from*

***WorldDAB,  
the Forum for Digital Broadcasting***

***Brussels, 13 July 2006***

WorldDAB Project Office: 30 Leicester Square, London, WC2H 7LA, United Kingdom  
Tel: +44 207 288 4640 • Fax: +44 207 288 4643 • e-mail: [info@worlddab.org](mailto:info@worlddab.org)

Registered office: c/o EBU CH-1218 Grand-Saconnex GE Switzerland  
Tel: + 41 22 717 27 36 • Fax: + 41 22 74 74 736 • e-mail: [lina.vanberghem@ebu.ch](mailto:lina.vanberghem@ebu.ch)

The WorldDAB Forum the international forum for Digital Broadcasting based on the Eureka 147 family of DAB and DMB standards, follows closely the review process undertaken by the EU regulatory framework for multimedia broadcasting services. To this end, WorldDAB 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

WorldDAB 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 DAB and DMB platforms.

#### *174-230 MHz (VHF- band III)*

Band III is already in use in many European countries and will become more fully available between now and 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 on portable devices. The plan opens up opportunities for a structured introduction of further T-DAB services in all of Europe and other ITU Region 1 countries and in a manner, which would enable a consistency of service offerings across member states without interoperability barriers.

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 1.7Mhz T-DAB channel makes it highly adaptable to flexible network planning and deployment and offers optimum use of spectrum in relation to the number of services necessary to create a viable multiplex.

The Eureka 147 technology comprises fully published standards for 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 conditional access / subscription basis enabling the transfer of video, audio and other multimedia content onto a full variety of mobile and portable device types such as mobile phones, PMPs and PDAs. DMB and DAB can be rolled out immediately on both a European and global basis. They benefit from a wide range of advanced commercial receivers available now at lower cost to consumers using lower cost (and therefore lower commercial risk) infrastructure, when compared to other technologies and platforms. 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 WorldDAB Forum 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.**

**These reasons include:**

- **proven technology**
- **device availability**
- **spectrum efficiency**
- **widespread deployment**
- **low cost receivers- competitive silicon solutions**
- **flexible and scalable business models**
- **adaptable to national regulation**

#### *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 or a mixture of T-DAB together with T-DMB. 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.

L-Band already forms a significant part of national plans for the introduction of T-DAB services in many EU states. In some cases L-Band is the primary band for digitisation of radio services and in others L-Band is taken together with Band III to provide sufficient spectrum for full digital migration. It is important that the long term plans of broadcasters, regulators and manufacturers relating to L Band use for T-DAB are recognised, including pre-existing L-Band assumptions and policies on which investment strategies in place today depend. It should not be assumed that any lack of use of L-Band to date is of itself a signal to the contrary. The availability of technology suitable for economic use of L-band has only recently become available. Any change to the Maastricht plan could have damaging consequences to national plans for digital radio, particularly where L-Band forms or formed a key part of the roadmap.

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 (i.e. broadcasting mobile TV, radio and data services together), such as those being commercially deployed in Germany using the L-Band frequency and also being piloted in a number of other EU states (and elsewhere in the World using the same spectrum).

Mixed mode spectrum presents additional practical difficulties of adjacent channel interference, which can render parts of the spectrum unusable or damage the receivability of services sharing the spectrum

**It is the view of the WorldDAB Forum that the future use of L-Band for multimedia services must be based on the use of the proven European Eureka 147 family of DAB and DMB standards.**

# WorldDAB

13/07/2006

*The WorldDAB Forum is an international, non-governmental organisation whose role is to promote the awareness, adoption and implementation of the European DAB technology - based on the Eureka 147 DAB broadcasting system - worldwide, to the lasting economic and social benefit of all concerned.*

*WorldDAB is dedicated to encouraging international co-operation and co-ordination between sound and data broadcasters, network providers, manufacturers, governments and official bodies, thus gaining consensus for the smooth roll-out of DAB. The Forum represents more than one hundred companies and organisations from all sections of the broadcasting industry and from 25 countries. They include public and private broadcasters, DAB receiver and other electronic equipment manufacturers; transmission providers, regulators and governmental bodies (for more information, visit [www.worlddab.org](http://www.worlddab.org)).*

*Contact person:*

*Finn Sondergaard Pedersen*

*Chairman of the WorldDAB Forum RSC*

*Telephone +45 (0) 4332 2401*

*E-mail [fsp@bsd.dk](mailto:fsp@bsd.dk)*

WorldDAB Project Office: 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, 7 Swallow Place, London, W1B 2AG, United Kingdom  
Tel: +44 207 288 4640 • Fax: +44 207 288 4643 • e-mail: [info@worlddab.org](mailto:info@worlddab.org)

Registered office: c/o EBU CH-1218 Grand-Saconnex GE Switzerland  
Tel: + 41 22 717 27 36 • Fax: + 41 22 74 74 736 • e-mail: [lina.vanberghem@ebu.ch](mailto:lina.vanberghem@ebu.ch)