

WorldDAB Asia Pacific Update

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Welcome

- DAB+ digital radio is about planning for a sustainable future for radio and for our industry, particularly in light of the global pandemic and very real threats from large global digital platforms
- There will always be a place for radio and its audio ecosystem in our community. Through remaining committed to DAB+ we are taking vital steps towards growth and longevity
- Today is an opportunity for us to celebrate the benefits of DAB+ and use this as a time to reconnect, refocus and continue the progress we are seeing across much of the world while reigniting movement and ideas where they have stalled



Asia Pacific Activity

March 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• RadioDays Asia, virtual event, 24-25 March
April 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ABU Digital Broadcasting Symposium, Virtual event<ul style="list-style-type: none">• WorldDAB workshop on 6 April• Conference presentations 5 – 8 April
June 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Broadcast Asia, Virtual event
2H21	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• WorldDAB & ABU Technical Webinar Series

New WorldDAB APAC Technical Support Group

- Dedicated to assisting the broadcast industry in the APAC region implement DAB+
- 2nd meeting held on 9 March
- Good country updates from:
 - Vietnam
 - Myanmar
 - Thailand
 - Cambodia
- Presentations on Headend Systems from WorldDAB members Paneda and AVT
- The group provides participants the opportunity to discuss, learn and collaborate on all technical aspects of DAB+, with information tailored specifically to the region.
- Technical Group will meet 3 times per year, preferably including one physical meeting each year (unlikely in 2021).

AUSTRALIA

Key Highlights

- **77%** of new cars now sold with DAB+, up from 60% in 2018
- 290k DAB+ enabled devices sold in Dec Qtr 2020 (receivers and new vehicles) – **up 27% YOY**
- Strong vehicle sales due to pent-up demand and consumers purchasing for road trips due to ban on international travel
- Australia's first major highway tunnels to support DAB+, the M4 and NorthConnex in Sydney, NSW, opened in August and Oct 2019. NSW legislation requires all new tunnels to have DAB+.
- DAB+ only stations reached 2.5m listeners weekly in 2020, **up 15%** compared to 2019
- 11 commercial DAB+ stations attracted a weekly audience in excess of 100,000 (GfK survey 8, Dec 2020)



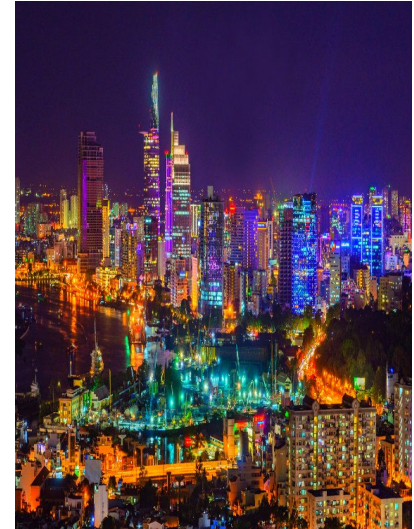
Thailand

- Bangkok DAB+ trial continues with championing of a DAB+ rollout by the NBTC.
- 20-month trial commenced in April 2019 with 11 radio stations – it continues to operate.
- NBTC plan to extend the DAB+ trial in Bangkok for a further 3 years
- DAB+ trial services and coverage are being planned to expand to regional areas in the North, North-East, Central, and South of Thailand
- Currently finalising funding and selecting suppliers for the trial expansion
- Full national coverage planning has been completed. Commercial rollout plans to be determined. Opportunity for Thailand to plan for permanent rollout and commercial model for future DAB+ activity.



Vietnam

- DAB+ trial on-air in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City. Hanoi trial is full time, Ho Chi Minh trial is part time. Trials are made up of 16 channels.
- DAB+ Trial is being evaluated. Some concern regarding unexpected coverage results. WorldDAB technical assistance has helped clarify issues and provided a clearer way forward.
- VoV initially aimed to convert radio from analogue to digital radio by 2025 however Covid issues look to have delayed that objective.
- Licensing and network operation model likely to be government run.
- Vietnam took over the Chair from Thailand of the ASEAN regulators group in 2020, providing an opportunity to work with VoV to provide further information and demonstrations to ASEAN members in 2021.



Malaysia

- DAB+ still to be adopted as the digital radio standard for Malaysia.
- MCMC has requested input from broadcasters to develop a position statement.
- RTM has responded but no public announcements or information has been released.
- DAB+ discussions are supported by RTM and a number of other commercial broadcasters.



Indonesia

- RRI has re-established contact with WorldDAB following the resolution of legal disputes over DTV deployments.
 - This should now result in DTV switch-over and VHF spectrum releases
- Meeting planned with Ariza Dinga of RRI for 23 March to clarify position and plans.
- RRI continue to operate 3 DAB trial transmissions



Sri Lanka

- No updates to the current status:
 - Political issues and Covid have slowed progress.
 - Antenna/combiner manufacturer RFS (Australia) is interested in supporting a future trial leading to roll out.
 - CRA is maintaining a watching brief with its local contacts.



Myanmar

- Current interest in trial expansion beyond the capital Yangon:
- Myanmar National Broadcaster, MRTV are now planning trial expansion to Mandalay
- MRTV are initiating discussions with the regulator regarding formal adoption
- Possible expansion of trial activities in Yangon
- MRTV responsible for formulating budgets for approval
- Recent unrest is slowing progress



- No updates to the current status:
 - CRA on behalf of WorldDAB held discussions with Laos Mass Media Department of the Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism in Bangkok in July 2019.
 - Interest from the Department in knowing more about DAB+ as neighbouring Thailand and Vietnam are trialling DAB+.
 - WorldDAB PO has followed up and added them to the mailing list.



Cambodia, Nepal and Papua New Guinea

- Interested to understand the DAB adoption process
- Want to better understand capabilities and costs
- Slow progress but communication is ongoing
- Have attended the APAC Technical Group meetings
- Cambodia looking for assistance on DAB+ studies
- Nepal considering trials but need more assistance to understand the process



New Zealand

- Radio Broadcasters Association to investigate capital and operational costs under a range of rollout options in 2020
- CRA has undertaken work with retailers and manufacturers keen to sell DAB+ enabled devices in NZ as both they and the broadcasters will lose market share to the big tech companies offering their own devices.
- Ministry for Culture and Heritage commissioned a report into the need to invest in DAB in NZ https://mch.govt.nz/proactive_releases
- Minister of Broadcasting, Communications and Digital Media Kris Faafoi committed to keeping a watching brief.

