### THE RADIO WORLD "COOL STUFF" AWARDS

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### The Wireless Telephone

Ed Perry ponders why Reginald Fessenden missed the point so completely.

Page 52

### Up and Coming

At age 23, he's already a seven-year radio veteran and a CBNT.

Page 24



The Newspaper for Radio Managers and Engineers

June 21, 2006

# Expanded-Band Sunset Rule Appealed

'Don't Make Us Choose,' Say AM Owners Seeking Relief From Deadline

by Randy J. Stine

WASHINGTON Should they stay on their original frequencies or keep their expanded-band locations? It's a choice some owners feel they shouldn't have to make.

The AM expanded band was created in 1997 with hopes of easing interference among existing stations. The FCC has allowed migrating stations to operate on dual frequencies for five years. This year is the deadline for most stations to decide which frequencies to keep and which to relinguish.

However, some of these broadcasters, faced with surrendering one of their dual licenses, are pushing a plan they say will increase ownership diversity and save spectrum at the same time. The plan would allow current owners that qualify as small businesses to keep both licenses and also allow them to sell one instead of surrendering it. Meanwhile, the petitioners have asked for a one-year extension of the deadline.

Eleven broadcasters and four other organizations have asked the FCC to waive its policy requiring the return of one of the two allotments. The issue has brought together public interest entities and broadcasters, two groups often at odds over the direction of the industry.

#### Why choose?

Owners of expanded-band stations want to be allowed to keep their channels permanently, or at least be allowed to profit from them by selling to small business broadcasters, something not envisioned in See EXPANDED, page 18





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### **FCC Back at** Full Strength

WASHINGTON The confirmation of Robert McDowell, a former telco executive and a Bush administration loyalist, returns the FCC to full strength.

The Senate approved his nomination before breaking for the Memorial Day holiday. The confirmation of the Republican means the party has a 3-2 majority at the agency.

Chairman Kevin Martin should now find it easier to push changes on several issues, such as media ownership and digital radio. An FCC official told the Washington Post in late May that the chairman's office had circulated a draft notice on media ownership.

"He has a wealth of knowledge and expertise in the communications arena, and we will rely on his insight," Martin said of McDowell. "I am anxious to have him on board and look forward to working with a full complement of commissioners to address the important issues before us."

McDowell was senior vice president and assistant general counsel with CompTel, which represents many telco competitors, including Internet phone

Like Martin, McDowell has worked for the Bush administration. He served as counsel to the Bush-Cheney Florida Recount Team in 2000 and led advance teams for President and Mrs. Bush in

NAB said in a statement, "His background and extensive knowledge of communications issues will serve Mr. McDowell well in his new position."

### **CBS, Stern Settle** Lawsuit

**NEW YORK** Howard Stern now owns

-8

-16

-24

-32

20 years' worth of master tapes from his shows on CBS Radio. The cache is part of a lawsuit settlement reached between Stern, Sirius Satellite Radio, Stern's agent Don Buchwald and CBS Radio.

CBS Radio filed the suit after Stern moved to Sirius; it claimed Stern breached his contract by using the last 14 months at CBS to promote his move to the satellite company.

As part of the agreement, Stern now owns the tapes of his CBS shows and Sirius agreed to pay CBS \$2 million, according to both sides.

The remaining terms and conditions of the settlement are confidential, according to the parties, although the Washington Post reported that CBS will receive more than the \$2 million figure.

Sirius in 2004 announced it had hired Stern in a five-year deal valued at \$500

### **PPM Competitors Determined Despite CBS** Deal

**NEW YORK** CBS Radio committed to buying Arbitron Portable People Meter system for audience research. The seven-year agreement is for 35 CBS Radio markets.

Spanish Broadcasting System and Beasley Broadcasting have also committed to PPM.

The PPM is one of three finalists in a selection process operated by various broadcast groups, including CBS. The Media Audit and Mediamark are the other finalists.

See NEWSWATCH, page 6



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Reader's Forum

or Practical?

Digital Standards: Possible

# **HD Radio for Seniors in Sight?**

Help Seen for Aging Boomers and Other Sight- and Hearing-Impaired

by Leslie Stimson

We're all getting older. For that reason, among others, some IBOC proponents want to make HD Radios accessible to those with poor vision or hearing before baby boomers start to retire around 2010.

To do so, they reason, would be to bring radio services to more people; it's also good business. For example, Dave Noble, a member of the technology committee for the International Association of Audio Information Services, which represents radio reading services, said conservative estimates put the number of visually impaired Americans at 10 million.

closer to success following an on-air demo in May.

#### Four-digital channel demo

Proponents hope by next year's NAB to demonstrate "conditional access capability" for HD Radio. This would enable a hearing or visually impaired person to use "accessible" features.

At NAB2006, NPR Labs demonstrated one aspect of the concept, synchronous audio and text captioning, in the booths of Harris and Broadcast Electronics. The closed-circuit demo featured four HD Radio channels running through an exciter. The throughput rates and formats

Using the extended hybrid carriers potentially could give a station about an extra 49 kbps of throughput, or a potential 144 kbps total, said NPR Vice President and Chief Technology Officer Mike Starling, who's also executive director of NPR Labs.

A "handful" of stations, said Starling, have received experimental authorization from the FCC to use the extended hybrid carriers.

Starling and others interviewed for this article said Ibiquity is working on optimizing its HDC codec to improve performance at 12 kbps. "We asked them to improve the performance at 12 kilobits so that it would be substantially better than the quality you could get through an analog SCA," said Starling.

"One of the things that we wanted to

at age 7, agrees that the proposed services are important. She is executive director of the Northern Virginia Resource Center, an outreach group; she challenged station representatives attending the Public Radio Engineering Conference this spring.

"All the emergency evacuation kits say you should bring a portable radio. How does this help me? You guys have to help me."

Starling assured her that captioned radio could be a reality within two to three years.

Mike Duke, government affairs chair for the IAAIS and manager of the Mississippi Public Broadcasting Radio Reading Service, said electronics have become very "screen dependent." Audible commands would be helpful to the blind and visually impaired, he said.

The IAAIS believes about 1 million people listen to radio reading services, 10 percent of the visually impaired U.S.

HARRIS



From left: Richard Cassidy and John Holt of WAMU(FM) in Washington; Dan Mansergh, KQED(FM), San Francisco; Terry Denbrook, KUOW(FM), Seattle and John Kean of NPR Labs share a laugh at NAB2006. NPR Labs was demonstrating the accessible HD Radio concept.

IAAIS President Heather Lusignan drives home the point that visually and hearing-impaired consumers "do all the same things we do," including purchasing radios and goods advertised on radio.

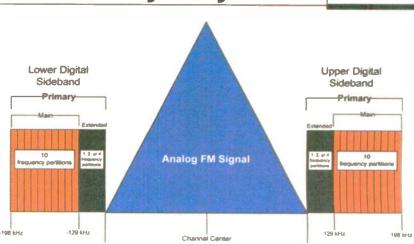
Radio World has reported on IAAIS efforts to have radio reading services included on the IBOC platform. Reading services could be one of several types of data services included on a station's HD Radio digital stream, proponents say.

The association believes its effort is

for the channels were: news at 48 kilobits per second, classical at 36 kbps, electronic music at 24 kbps and a radio reading service at 12 kbps, for a total of 120 kbps.

The throughput rate was higher than the usual 96 kbps for FM because the digital signals were transmitted using both the currently FCC-authorized digital sideband carriers plus the "extended hybrid mode," the digital sideband carriers closer to the analog center channel in the Ibiquity Digital system.

#### FM Extended Hybrid System



MP2-MP4 – Extended Hybrid waveform (not yet authorized) up to 148 kbps, +1, +2, or +4 extended partitions, 101-199 kHz.

demonstrate here was even first-generation HD Radios will pick up extended hybrid mode all the way out to 120 kilobits. Our vision for the future is that you'll be able to add a captioned radio service."

The concept is that on certain HD Radios, both the display screen and the captioned text would be large. Such captioning could be sponsored, Starling noted.

Synchronizing the audio to the text is key. It's more difficult for hearingimpaired listeners to follow text and audio separately.

#### 'Help me'

Cheryl Heppner, who lost her hearing

population. "Lots of people can still see, but can't read anymore," said Duke. "Sometimes disabilities like dyslexia or a stroke affects reading ability. Failing eyesight is the number one reason for loss of independence."

The expense of new technologies also limits reading. Given the lack of accessible capabilities in today's radios, this makes adding features to the HD Radio platform urgent, he said.

Radio reading services began operating using SCAs, or FM subcarriers, in Minneapolis in 1969. Now more than 100 such services exist, according to the

See ACCESSIBLE, page 5

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# Cool Stuff Throughout These Pages

Congratulations to the winners of the 2006 Radio World "Cool Stuff" Award, radio's most prestigious technology honor. You'll find winning products described in boxes throughout the issue, starting on page 5.

The award means a product was selected by a panel of veteran engineers and experts as notable for its design, features, cost efficiency and performance in serving broadcast radio users.

The judges this year include prominent engineers from several of the largest commercial radio groups and a large public broadcast entity, as well as production and voice-work experts. They have experience in markets big and small, at stations public and private, in management locally and at the group level

They will receive little thanks other than my nod to them here. Gentlemen, I salute you for your commitment to a fair and well-reasoned selection process.

\* \* \*

My favorite product at NAB was the iPod Radio Remote from Apple. It "combines the convenience of a wired remote control with new FM radio capabilities for the iPod nano and fifthgeneration iPod." You could see it in booths including those of BE and Audemat-Aztec.

The remote lets you skip tracks and adjust the volume of your iPod even if the player is tucked away; and you can listen to FM while displaying station and song information — delivered by RDS — on the iPod screen. It comes with headphones with a shortened cable and costs \$49 retail.

We should be clamoring for more smart products that allow listeners to enjoy radio via popular new media platforms.

\* \* \*

Linda Baun is leaving the Society of Broadcast Engineers. You may know her

as certification director and Ennes assistant secretary. She is taking a position as vice president of the Wisconsin Broadcasters Association.

Baun told me she worked at WHMB(TV) before joining SBE in 1991. "One of my numerous bosses was Doug Garlinger, CPBE 8VSB CBNT," she said in an email (always sure to include those important certification letters). Garlinger was director of engineering for LeSea Broadcasting.

"One evening I noticed one of the engineers folding a newsletter and sat down to talk to him. Larry Fawbush explained there was this organization that believed in engineers called the Society of Broadcast Engineers."

Fawbush told Baun he held the certification of CPBE. "He went on to reiterate that his certification was the only industry recognition for what he did and [he] was very proud of it. Larry had no family and noted that the SBE was his family. He stated that Doug cared enough about his engineers that he would take the leftover copper from the station and turn it into cash to pay for membership and help with certification expenses for his engineers.

"Later that year Doug told me about an opening at SBE," Baun continued. "Just a few months after my start, Larry was killed accidentally at the shortwave station."

At SBE Linda Baun learned much from Jim Wulliman. Under him, "I realized where the source of this dedication to this organization is generated. The SBE Board of Directors, National Certification Committee and the Local Chapter Certification Chairs and the Ennes Educational Foundation Trust go beyond the call of 'volunteer' work and dedicate numerous hours to do whatever it takes to help promote their colleagues in their profession. The SBE staff uses



Linda Baun

that same dedication to implement their direction."

Baun also thanked chapter certification chairs, Executive Director John Poray and recent national certification chairs Wulliman, David Carr, Terry Baun, Chriss Scherer and Jim Bernier. Suffice it to say, those guys all have some pretty impressive letters after their names as well.

I have no doubt they'll miss Linda Baun.

\*\*\*

I haven't had a chance to tell you of a change in Radio World's U.S. staffing. Kelly Brooks adds the title of editor of the Buyer's Guide section to her duties as associate editor for Studio Sessions and Opinion and production editor for RW Engineering Extra. She resumes Buyer's Guide duties she handled in the past.

Timothy Kimble has left Radio World to become technical operator for ABC station WMAL(AM) in Washington, overseeing broadcast technicians including board ops, call screeners and satellite operators.

Keith Tate assumes Kimble's duties as listings coordinator for the NAB Daily News and the Radio World Source Book & Directory, answering to Editorial Director Carter Ross.

\*\*\*

Last, I recently complimented Ken R. on turning a story assignment around quickly.

He replied: "What I lack in greatness I make up for in speed! This reminds me of a vocal session I once had with my jingle singers. After a bad take on their part, I made some suggestions and one singer said, 'What do you want, speed or perfect pitch?' To which I replied, 'Well, I'd like to have at least *one*!'"

#### From the Editor



Paul J. McLane

#### **One More Look Back**

Here's one more look at last year's winners:

25-Seven Systems Audio Time Manager AEQ DR-100 Portable Digital Recorder Aphex 230 Master Voice Channel Processor

Belar FMHD-1 HD IBOC Monitor Broadcast Electronics 4MX 50 AM

Transmitter
Broadcast Electronics Now Playing/
Now Playing Plus

Broadcast Tools ADMS 44.22 Switcher Burk G-Link G-Bus Expansion Series Comrex Access Studio Codec Continental Electronics 816HD

Transmitter
Harris RMX Digital Audio Console
Heil PR 40 Microphone
Henry MultiPhones Distributed
Headphones Systems
Linear Acoustic Aeromax-HDFM
Multichannel Digital Processor

Marantz Professional PMD660 Recorder
Nautel Digital Adaptive Precorrection
Orban Optimod-FM 8500 Processor
Potomac Instruments PI-4100 MediumWave Field Strength Meter
Waves MaxxBCL Processor

Wheatstone Vorsis AP3 Digital Signal Processor

Also last year, NPR, Harris, Kenwood, Broadcast Electronics and Ibiquity received recognition for innovation in the development of multicasting. Telos/Omnia/Fraunhofer, Neural Audio and SRS Labs and their development partners were honored for advocacy of radio surround sound.



# Accessible

Continued from page 3 IAAIS.

Lusignan says there's no exact number for how many people listen on SCA receivers because many of the special radios are used in hospitals or senior facilities.

Delivering the special radios to listeners and keeping track of the units takes a lot of time; and the cost of up to \$100 per SCA receiver is a drain on community groups serving the blind and visually impaired, industry sources said. They believe a reading service on a digital signal will sound much better and that adding radio reading services via HD Radio will enable more of those who need the services to get them. This assumes, they add, that HD Radios eventually will be at or below the same price point as SCA receivers.

"Reading services have put up with

poor quality audio since we started, and the listening audience doesn't have a choice of stations," said Noble.

While most people associate radio reading services with the blind or vision-impaired, such services also serve those with paraplegia, tremors or allergies to newsprint, said Noble.

Lusignan said options to help the blind and visually impaired could include tactile and audible tuning controls.

Although RDS radios have been considered as a platform for live captioning, previous NPR tests on receivers found insufficient throughput to achieve such captioning; also, the network has not been able to find RDS receivers that support multi-line displays or variable font sizes, Starling said.

"Accessible," however, does not mean

"Accessible," however, does not mean universal. Not everyone can have access to a radio reading service. An authorized group must deem listeners eligible. Congress has established a copyright exemption for the reading of print information to the blind and visually impaired.

In order to maintain the exemption, reading services must ensure that only authorized people can hear the service, in which newspaper and other media articles are read verbatim over the air.

HD Radios have the potential to be addressable, however transmission hardware, software and new receivers would need to be developed to make conditional access — called encryption by some — a reality on any supplemental audio channel, including those in the extended hybrid mode. The idea is that once someone buys an HD Radio and is deemed eli-

gible to receive a reading service, the listener gives the serial number of the radio to the reading service and the service is activated, in much the same way satellite radio services handle subscriptions and premium channels.

Ibiquity has contracted with NDS, a company that specializes in conditional access technology for TV, to develop such capability for HD Radio, a spokeswoman confirmed. Proponents hope the company will be able to demo a conditional access concept by next year's See ACCESSIBLE, page 6

# 12 Kilobit Reading Service Demoed at IAAIS Conference

In May, attendees of the IAAIS national convention heard an over-theair demo of a radio reading service on KPBS(FM) in San Diego. Two receivers were used: an SCA receiver and a Boston Acoustics Recepter HD.

The station simulcast its HD Radio signal on the 67 kHz subcarrier. The approximately 100 attendees at the IAAIS annual convention heard the same programming on both radios.

The digital broadcast used the extended hybrid mode at a throughput of 12 kilobits per second.

Kneller said the most likely interference would be to the host analog signal because the extended hybrid carriers are so close to it; in this demo no such interference was observed, he said.

Lusignan said the quality difference

between the subcarrier and digital signal was "incredible. You could have heard a pin drop" in the room.

While there have been other on-air demos of the extended hybrid mode, this was the first over-the-air demo of a radio reading service to operate in HD-R and the first on the extended hybrid mode, participants said.

Kneller said there had been skepticism from some IAAIS members about what HD Radio audio would sounds like at 12 kbps; some believed it would sound like audio streaming over the Internet. "To the average person who's not a trained listener, this sounded like FM," rather than typical SCA receiver audio, he said.

— Leslie Stimson

### **COOL STUFF 2006 AWARD WINNER**

**Product:** HSC & HSD Headset Series Company: AKG Acoustics

These are a combo of the company's line of premium headphones and microphones. They feature a swiveling mic arm for left- or right-hand use, as well as independent auto-mute functions.

The headsets are based on the K 271 and K 171 headphone and are available in supra-aural — the HSC 171 and HSD 171 — and circum-aural — HSC 271 and HSD 271 — versions; they can be fitted with dynamic or condenser microphones.

A transducer shock mount suppresses

unwanted handling noise; an intelligent switching function automatically mutes the mic as the arm is moved up; the 271 models also have an auto-mute function that silences the headphones when the set is removed. The ability to mute both appealed to the judges. One wrote: "What a great combo."

Price: \$449-\$549

Info: (615) 620-3800 or www.akg.com



# **COOL STUFF 2006 AWARD WINNER**



**Product:** TRX-HD Series Digital FM Translators **Company:** Armstrong Transmitter Corp.

"A timely product filling an important industry need," one judge wrote. The translators use Armstrong's new FM receive section to pick up the programming a station is broadcasting



including analog and HD Radio components. The signal stays in IF and is heterodyned up and retransmitted on the assigned translator frequency.

Since the received signal does not revert to baseband audio there's no need to re-encode the HD signal at the translator; this, Armstrong says, keeps the station within its Ibiquity licensing agreement and avoids the cost of an HD exciter at each translator location.

The TRX HD series is available with hybrid powers of 10, 50 and 100 watts; you reach higher powers by adding an Armstrong Linear Amp.

Shipping in summer.

Designer: Sinan Mimaroglu Price: \$5,300-\$9,300

Info: (315) 673-1269 or e-mail ernie@armstrongtx.com.



# Accessible

Continued from page 5 spring NAB.

The FCC would need to approve both the use of the extended hybrid mode and conditional access.

#### 'Huge' potential

Harris believes the concepts of the extended hybrid mode and conditional access are "huge," according to Hal Kneller, chair of the tech committee of IAAIS and the Harris sales rep for noncom stations. Conditional access could be used for a host of station data services in addition to radio reading services, he said. Most often described in this vein for public radio is a so-called "pledge free"

channel for big donors.

Commercial stations would no doubt be interested in conditional access as well

#### Failing eyesight is

the number one reason for loss of independence.

- Mike Duke

for reading services and subscription channels, he said.

NPR and the WGBH National Center for Accessible Media have applied for

federal grant money so they and Ibiquity and other technology partners, can develop, field test and assess accessible services for HD Radio. Grant awards will be announced in the fall.

Harris has committed funding toward the second and third years of the program.

Among the questions NPR wants to study are interference consequences of using the extended hybrid mode.

In the meantime, proponents need to work with receiver makers on the concept in the design phase for future HD Radios. "Our work over the next year and a half is talking with receiver manufacturers about shaping buttons certain ways," including tuning discussions and how the accessibility features would be displayed on the radio, Noble said. The IAAIS also is discussing whether to lend its name and a logo to accessible HD Radios.

# Newswatch

Continued from page 2

Some other radio groups were surprised CBS make the deal when the selection process hadn't ended. After the CBS announcement, The Media Audit and Mediamark said they intend to see the selection process through.

Arbitron plans to launch the PPM system as its radio ratings service to the top 50 markets, beginning with Houston in July, pending Media Rating Council accreditation.

CBS Chairman/CEO Joel Hollander said he was confident the PPM would be supported throughout the industry.

# XM Will Fight Labels

**WASHINGTON** XM said it will "vigorously" fight allegations brought against it by the record industry.

Labels are suing XM Satellite Radio for copyright infringement over XM's new portable Pioneer Inno XM2go radio, which allows subscribers to record and store 50 hours of music. In the lawsuit, filed in New York, a coalition of labels claims that XM's portable is really a "new digital download subscription service."

The lawsuit seeks \$150,000 in damages for every song copied by XM customers using the devices.

Both XM and Sirius testified during a congressional hearing in May that they pay music licensing fees to ASCAP and BMI. But the labels believe satcasters should pay more because new devices allow customers to store music in any order they wish, rather the order in which it is aired, for future use.

The satcasters argue music stays on these portables and cannot be transferred to computers or the Internet.

XM and the Consumer Electronics Association, in congressional hearings on the so-called audio broadcast flag, have argued that the labels want to limit consumers' legal right to record material aired on the radio for personal use.

"These are legal devices that allow consumers to listen to and record radio, just as the law has allowed for decades," said XM spokesman Chance Patterson. "The music labels are trying to stifle innovation, limit consumer choice and roll back consumers' rights to record content for their personal use."

Sirius recently settled with the record labels in similar discussions regarding its new \$50, as reported here.

### **CEA Stands By XM**

**ARLINGTON, Va.** The Consumer Electronics Association blasted the lawsuit filed by several labels against XM (see above).

Vice President of Government Affairs Michael Petricone said, "The record industry is returning to the courts in their See NEWSWATCH, page 10







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# 'Tomorrow arrived today!"

"I've built many, many studios all across the Midwest over the years, but our Knoxville Logitek installation was the cleanest, neatest and most advanced layout you can imagine! Almost everything is located in a centralized controlled-environment rack area. The control surface, mics, phone stuff and CD player backups are about the only things left in the studio outside of all the computer controls. The majority of the audio chain takes place within about five feet inside of one equipment rack for each station.

"My biggest problem today isn't how to set up for daily on-air operations, it's how to sell off all the old equipment like distribution amps that I don't need anymore. The Logitek system makes audio 'patching' just as easy as plugging in patch cables for everything. You don't even have to change the type of cable if you change from analog to digital—just re-plug a jumper into an appropriate engine input!

"I'd always dreamed of a studio that worked better for the jock, looked more like what the public thinks a radio star 'cockpit' should look like and yet was easy to take care of. The Logitek system made it possible to build it."

Mark Lucas, Chief Engineer Journal Broadcast Group, Knoxville TN

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# This is how you feel when you find out the remote is this afternoon.

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# Don't Go to the Site Alone

While station security isn't always sexy, it's necessary. "Security is a hassle," hears Rich Parker, the director of engineering for Vermont Public Radio. "Users believe security hinders work until they see the threats."

E-mail viruses, file sharing, laptops that "travel" — all pose threats, he said during a session at the NPR Public

Radio Engineering Conference in April.

As far as security at a physical plant, roofs and windows often are overlooked and could be exploited by trespassers.

Decide which things you can not operate without, such as power, a transmitter and antenna tower and the

STL, and provide ways of maintaining those resources first, said Parker. Offsite backups of data and audio, alternative servers and a generator or Alternate Mains Feed should be considered.

Stations were encouraged by panelists to call their local sheriff's office or the Federal Bureau of Investigation know who was behind them.

Many of the sites had only a chain and lock as security, he said.

Calling law enforcement to accompany an engineer to the transmitter site when there's an alarm is vital. In one of the 2004 Houston robberies, robbers were still at the site when the engineer arrived, and they beat him, said Schrom.

Broadcasters can develop a response plan, educate employees and report suspicious activity, he said. For exam-

### Too much security can also be bad

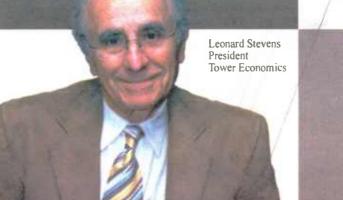
- If passwords are changed too often, users write them on Post-it Notes – and put them over door jambs, under keyboards, etc.
- When security is not reasonably simple, users become 'helpful' to other users - opens a door for social engineering attacks from outsiders posing as employees or contractors
- Doors and gates are sometimes left propped open, or keys are left in 'easy to find' places
- General non-compliance with policies results in less security instead of more – no one benefits

# Determine those things you can't operate without

- Electrical Power
- Transmitter and antenna (tower)
- STL and/or remote control systems
- Studio (locally produced source material)
- Downlink (network source material)
- Staff (access and personal safety)
- Computer Audio Automation System
- · Telephones and Internet access

# "Accountability is indispensable to us when putting up a new tower. That's why we deal

exclusively with Sabre for our broadcast towers. Their people have been in the industry for years, and have a broad-based knowledge on all types of towers. Their construction department handles turnkey projects with ease, eliminating the need to hire subcontractors and worry about who is taking responsibility. We choose Sabre because we like the people, the product and the pricing."





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2101 Murray Street - PO Box 658 - Sioux City, IA 51102

if there's a break-in.

David Schrom, a special agent with the Las Vegas FBI office who received his college education in broadcasting, said the bureau is investigating transmitter site break-ins in regards to domestic terrorism, foreign intelligence operations and cybercrime.

"We've learned there's a direct link between economic interests and attacks on the U.S.," he said.

Referring to transmitter site break-ins in the Houston area in 2004, he said the FBI didn't learn about those incidents right away "because no one thought to call them." The bureau was looking for a pattern to the robberies, and still doesn't

ple, many computer attacks are generated by company employees "paid to do stuff they shouldn't do."

He encouraged broadcasters to sign up for the InfraGard program, in which the FBI and companies exchange security-related information. The Web site is www.infragard.net.

But he encouraged broadcasters to have fun at the spring convention and quipped that despite the adage "What happens in Vegas stays in Vegas," local law enforcement wanted to make sure "you don't stay in Vegas an extra six to 12 months."

- Leslie Stimson

### **COOL STUFF 2006 AWARD WINNER**

Product: Goldeneagle HD AM, FM, AM/FM

The Goldeneagle HD is an HD receiver designed for offair monitoring with optional remote control capabilities. It can be installed at the studio or transmitter or any recep-

Company: Audemat-Aztec Inc



tion area.

The system monitors in real time the quality and continuity of several FM and/or AM and HD programs and notifies you or another manager of any problem by sending an alarm. Features include a spectrum analyzer, audio streaming and recording, automatic scanning, measurement analysis and storage as well as remote control. Shipping now.

"Few manufacturers have been as prolific with timely products designed for the evolving needs of this industry," said one panelist.

Designers: Nicolas Boulay and team

*Price:* \$5,215

Info: (805) 497-4685, (305) 249-3110 or www.goldeneagle-hd.com

# "We were building brand-new studios. Why use the same old tech?"

"Our company bought a station in San Diego, and we had to move the studios. Since the station would be a part of our Southern California network, we needed equipment



that could quickly re-route multiple audio signals – from satellite, T-1, ISDN and remote vehicles – to different destinations. "With Axia, setting up new routing configurations is easy; you just save new routes in software and recall them when you need them. SmartSurface makes controlling

our many different audio sources and destinations very straightforward and uncomplicated; our air staff loves it!



"I knew how expensive routing equipment was. I also knew we'd regret buying a system with fewer capabilities just to save money.



"More than anything, we wanted to avoid limiting our operations with the use of conventional

routers. Most of those systems force you to plan, during installation, for every signal routing configuration you might ever possibly need. If your needs change, you either have



to re-wire or settle for operational compromises. Not very user-friendly! Making sure that the system was easy for non-

technical air talent to understand and operate was critical, too.

"Axia addressed all these concerns.

"And expanding the network couldn't be simpler. Just plug in more audio nodes and boom! you've got more inputs.

"I've worked with lots of equipment in the past 30 years, and Axia is by far the easiest system to





install and get up to speed with. There are just a few cables instead of hundreds; the entire installation – with testing – took just *one week*.

"Here's the kicker: Axia cost about half what we would have paid for a conventional router. We're very pleased, and plan to



expand the network to our second control room. My advice? Get Axia. You won't be disappointed."

 Rudy Agus, Chief Engineer, Hi-Favor Broadcasting Los Angeles, California



www.AxiaAudio.com

GUEST COMMENTARY

# **Allow Local Programs on Translators**

Petitioner Says FM Translators Offer Another Way to Communicate With Listeners Locally

#### by Randal J. Miller

I have filed a petition with the FCC to allow locally originated programming on FM translators. The co-petitioners Miller Communications Inc., Kaskaskia Broadcasting Inc. and Virden Broadcasting Corp. — make up the Miller Media Group that I own.

For my 34 years in the radio business, 1 have believed that anything that provides locally originated programming to a community, no matter how it's delivered, is a good thing.

My petition comes from my purchasing an FM translator construction permit in Taylorville, Ill., last fall from a religious broadcaster. While my main reason to purchase and build this translator was from a defensive standpoint, I began to think about how this FM translator could provide additional service to my listeners in Taylorville.

Current FCC rules state I have to rebroadcast a station so that the translator's 60 dBu contour would be inside the 60 dBu coverage area of the full-power station.

I already have a full-power FM radio

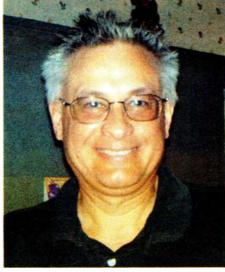
gramming to its local community. That's how I developed the idea of petitioning the commission to allow locally originated programming on FM translators.

The crux of my argument is the fact that in 1982, the FCC allowed television translators to begin locally originated programming, because the commission has always put local service at the top of its priority list. That decision had no demonstrable adverse effect, public interest or otherwise, on television broadcasting.

That's what I'm asking the commission to do: make local service to local communities as a continued service priority.

A terrestrial FM translator could transmit local programming such as live coverage of city council meetings, additional high-school sports play-by-play broadcasts, additional church services and other music formats within the approximately five-mile radius of listeners in the Taylorville city limits. Putting this kind of programming on my Taylorville full-power FM would not be practical, as it wouldn't apply to listeners outside the Taylorville city limits.

The petition calls for terrestrial FM



Randal J. Miller

ity to receive additional locally originated programming from FM translators.

#### The long-range view

A means of delivering locally originated programming exists now with FM translators. This would be a commercially supported service, unlike LPFM, which is non-commercial (though it has underwriting).

While the purposes of LPFM and local origination on FM translators may cross in some respects — just as non-commercial full-service broadcasting crosses in some areas with commercial full-power broadcasting - the commercially supported nature of local origination on FM translators would allow much locally originated programming to be carried on translators. This programming would not be financially viable carried on a listenersupported station such as LPFM.

Broadcasters need to take the longrange view that additional outlets for local programming, if they can be owned by broadcasters, will strengthen our industry, rather than viewing my petition narrowly as potentially creating added competition.

On May 10, the commission assigned my petition a rulemaking number, RM-11331. Please write, call or e-mail the FCC in support of this petition, copying Chairman Kevin Martin, Media Bureau Chief Donna Gregg, Senior Deputy Bureau Chief Roy Stewart and Audio Division Chief Peter Doyle.

Comments may also be filed online at www.fcc.gov/cgb/ecfs. Click on "Submit a Filing" on the right-hand side and file comments under the proceeding number listed above. Comments may be uploaded, or scroll down the page to enter comments in text directly as "Brief Comments."

I'm hoping that both commercial and non-commercial broadcasters will get behind my petition, because in my mind, anything that provides locally originated programming to a community, no matter how it's delivered, is a good thing.

The author is president of the seven-station Miller Media Group, Taylorville, Ill.

RW welcomes other points of view to radioworld@imaspub.com.

#### Every FM radio has the ability to receive

additional locally originated programming from FM translators.

station licensed to Taylorville, WTIM(FM) "Newstalk 97.3." It operates with a cluster of two other stations licensed to Pana and Tower Hill, Ill., from our Taylorville studios.

#### TV can do it

I consulted with my Washington FCC legal counsel, John Garziglia of Womble Carlyle, about options to try to get the FCC and the industry to consider ideas about how FM translators could provide protranslators that do originate programming to have a main studio within 25 miles of the transmitter site for the translator.

To compete with all the new content delivery methods, broadcasters must look to the FCC to be given the advantage of as many different means of delivering locally originated programming as possible.

HD multicasting is coming, and at this point there are few receivers that have the ability to receive multicasting. Conversely, every FM radio has the abil-

# Newswatch

Continued from page 6

non-stop efforts to stop new technology, neuter existing products, frustrate consumers and make illegal long-standing consumer home recording activities.'

Petricone called the suit a "brazen effort by the labels to strong-arm more money from a successful technology industry startup. XM Radio already is the largest single payer of digital music broadcast royalties," he continued. "More, the record labels receive royalties on every XM recording device sold as provided by Congress under the Audio Home Recording Act."

CEA says it will support XM in its defense.

The lawsuit comes as RIAA, CEA, receiver makers and broadcasters are trying to work out the audio flag issue. Several bills have been introduced in Congress to do that, although their chances at passage are seen by insiders as slim as the legislative calendar grows shorter in this election year.

Lawmakers prefer that the industry work out the issue. NAB recently testified before a congressional committee that those talks are going well.

CEA says the suit now undermines that effort.

### Audiovox, Delphi Suspend XM **Shipments**

each have stopped shipments to retailers of one model of an XM Satellite Radio in response to an FCC probe.

The commission said its testing showed the FM modulator wireless transmitter for the Audiovox Xpress Model XMCK10 and Delphi XM SKYFi2 was not in compliance with the agency's operating bandwidth specifications or permissible emission limits.

Other XM-capable receivers, specifically the Sports Caster and Roady XT, might also be affected by a suspension, an XM spokesman told the Associated Press.

RW has reported that some public stations received complaints from listeners who occasionally can't hear terrestrial radio stations due to interference from satellite radio devices containing FM modulators.

In an SEC filing in May, XM said, "We are implementing a series of actions involving various radios to bring them into compliance, including requesting our manufacturers to suspend shipments to retail of radios or accessories that may require changes to operating or installation instructions, or modifications to software or hardware, such as small attachments that reduce emissions through the antenna or cigarette lighter adapter. We will seek new equipment authorizations where appropriate, and expect to provide additional information to the FCC shortly, including test results for several XM radios, as modified, showing compliance with the in-vehicle testing criteria."

Banc of America Securities research analyst Jonathan Jacoby wrote in a research note, "We believe that XM and Sirius could temporarily suspend retail shipments of certain radios, but the fix would be relatively quick and inexpensive and likely would not lead to stockouts at retail.

### **COOL STUFF 2006 AWARD WINNER**





Product: AT2020 Cardioid Condenser Microphone Company: Audio-Technica U.S. Inc.

Audio-Technica's AT2020 is an affordable sideaddress cardioid condenser for production and air studios as well as podcasting and remote broadcast applications. One "Cool Stuff" judge said, "A-T has beaten the low-end mic importers at their own game with better QC and a better-sounding mic."

A low-mass diaphragm provides extended frequency response and superior transient response. The microphone features high SPL handling capability (144 dB) and a wide dynamic range (124 dB).

Designers: Audio-Technica Engineering Group, Japan Price: \$169

Info: (330) 686-2600 or www.audio-technica.com

WASHINGTON Audiovox and Delphi

See NEWSWATCH, page 12 ▶



# Remote Broadcasting over the Internet





The remote from Mexico was a spectacular success, in no small part thanks to the flawless sound which the Tieline G3 provided over the public Internet



-Mike Rabey Chief Engineer Entercom Indianapolis

Read the full story and get a FREE IP demo www.tieline.com/ip

800-750-7950



# Lengthy N.Y. Tower Dispute Ends

by Randy J. Stine

**NEW YORK** A controversial tower that stood, partially built, overlooking New York's Botanical Garden is finally down after being stuck in legal limbo for more than a dozen years.

The FCC officially renewed the broadcast license of Fordham University's WFUV(FM) in March, enabling the station to begin broadcasting at 50 kW from a new transmitter site several miles from campus atop Montefiore Medical Center in the Bronx.

The on-campus tower of the noncommercial station was the subject of much legal wrangling, as reported here previously. The project started in 1994 and halted days later after the Garden notified the New York City Department of Buildings about alleged inaccuracies in the school's construction-permit application.

So the partially built tower sat for more than a decade, 150 feet from the property line of the 250-acre National Historical Landmark. WFUV moved its antenna to the incomplete structure in 2000 and broadcast using special temporary authority from the FCC, operating at half of its permitted ERP.



WFUV's Main Studio

appease its neighbor with concessions. One such offer was to lower the height of the structure from the planned 480 feet to 380 feet to better suit the aesthetic nature of the area

The FCC even mediated a series of

said Ralph Jennings, WFUV general manager.

The school immediately began broadcasting from its Montefiore site in March and started dismantling the controversial tower. The Botanical Garden confirmed the structure was completely down by the end of April.

"We have worked diligently with WFUV to reach this resolution. We are satisfied with the outcome and look forward to our continued relationship as neighbors," said Dennis O'Connor, chief legal counsel for the Botanical Garden. He confirmed that the Botanical Garden contributed financially to WFUV to help resolve the tower dispute but declined to give the dollar amount.

"We contributed to the move, to the removal and helping with lease payments at the new location in the Bronx,' O'Connor said.

As a result of the tower trouble, WFUV added a booster to improve its signal performance in January 2004. The 600-watt booster - WFUV-FM2, atop the 392-foot bell tower of Riverside Church in Manhattan — extended the coverage area of the station into Manhattan and in parts of nearby Queens and Brooklyn.

June 21, 2006

Though now broadcasting at the allotted 50 kW of effective radiated power, WFUV officials said they have no plans to abandon the booster. In fact, the school has requested a power increase from 600

"The booster helps make the new location of the WFUV antenna possible by continuing to address interference the WFUV signal experiences within its licensed broadcast area," the school said in a statement. "An increase in power to more adequately address this interference has been requested of the FCC.

Montefiore Medical Center officials say the new location, an antenna mast atop their 28-story staff housing building, allows the center to be a good corporate citizen while resolving the long-running tower dispute.

This seems like a winning proposition for all parties involved. We are proud to be the link that could bring about a resolution satisfactory to both parties in a true spirit of cooperation," said Spencer Foreman, president of the medical center.

# Newswatch

Continued from page 10

While as of the beginning of June the FCC inquiries were limited to the two models, Jacoby believes that other XM devices and those of Sirius could have compliance issues. According to the analyst, the FCC compliance could be attained with the addition of a 25-cent part to the radio, and a new product could begin shipping again within 30 to 60 days.

### **News Roundup**

XM/WCS: NAB expressed pleasure that concerned that the two satellite radio

XM had said the acquisition would ted over the new frequencies.

CPB: The CPB's board responded to its

XM SUIT: XM Satellite says a lawsuit filed in federal court in Washington is without merit. The law firm of Schatz & Nobel said the suit alleges XM executives violated securities laws by selling their company stock while making misleading claims about the satcaster's ability to cut expenses. News of the lawsuit came on the heels of SEC filings by XM stating that it is fielding inquiries from the FTC about XM's marketing practices.

#### The FCC license renewal brings a happy

conclusion to the 13-year impasse with the New York Botanical Garden.

--- Ralph Jennings, WFUV

Botanical Garden officials maintained that the partially constructed tower, which rose to 260 feet and was visible from most areas of the nature area, caused "significant economic harm" by lessening its beauty.

The school made several attempts to

public hearings to hear public comment

happy conclusion to the 13-year impasse with the New York Botanical Garden,"

on the matter in 2002. The sometimescontentious forums included testimony from backers of both sides.

The FCC license renewal brings a

XM had called off its planned acquisition of WCS Wireless. "We have long been companies are circumventing their commitment to provide national service with local program initiatives," said NAB spokesman Dennis Wharton.

give it an opportunity to expand its business with multimedia subscription offerings, including video and data, transmit-

Inspector General's report recommending reforms in the wake of controversy over former Board Chair Kenneth Tomlinson. Current Chair Cheryl Halpern stated that, for the first time in its 40-year history, the CPB initiated a top-to-bottom review of its operations and procedures. The board adopted several procedures for internal reform.

## Worried about Translator Hijacking?

The recent flood of cheap FM repeaters for Satellite radio and MP3 players has raised the risk of someone overpowering your distant translator source with inappropriate content.

With our RBDS encoder at your station and an RD10 RBDS Receiver/Decoder at each translator, you can automatically mute the translator if the received signal has been hijacked or overcome through atmospheric skip.

The RD10 is available now for only \$395 for the Serial version, \$475 for the USB version.

Visit www.viaRadio.com or call us at (321) 242-0001 for more information.



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### MPR doubles size: 20 new Axia studios in Twin Cities

Imagine that you're a major broadcaster with hundreds of employees and 20 studios in a single location, and that you produce programming not only for your own radio stations, but syndicated and round-the-clock satellite content heard on hundreds of other stations.

Imagine, too, that you've outgrown your studios. Management floats an ambitious plan to double the size of your facilities, adding *another 20 studios*. Of course, this scenario comes complete with all the usual pressure points: equipment costs, labor costs, and a move-in date that's firmer than a truckful of green tomatos.

Now throw a wild card into the mix: all your research tells you, unbelievably, that the way to master this Herculean project on schedule and within budget is to employ technology so new, so untried, that most of your peers have never heard of it.

Imagine yourself living on a diet of Tums®.

That's the scenario faced by Ethan Torrey, Chief of Research & Development at Minnesota Public Radio. One of America's largest suppliers of content to public radio stations, MPR had an awful lot riding on whatever technology they chose to build and interconnect

Top Left: 28-position Element console with telephone interface module in MPR's news control center. Center Left: A rack of Axia StudioEngines mixing audio. Bottom Left: Ethan Torrey demonstrates touch-screen switching with Axia PathfinderPC software in Master Control.

their new studios.

"It's a big decision. It's not like you're just buying a console, or just buying an audio router," he says. "This is the basket that you're going to put all your company's eggs in!"

"We looked at Axia from every angle we could imagine," says Torrey. "Is this a strong company? Will they be around in five or 10 years? Is it a strong company in terms of its creative thinking, its capacity to keep up with technology?"

Torrey and his crew applied this criteria to all of the companies they might do business with, and they found a critical difference between Axia and the others: Axia's

Continued on Page 4

#### INSIDE

The Minnesota Public Radio story

Axia, live in Bangkok

World's newest Element discovered

Would you like Livewire with that?

...plus other assorted musings

World Dadio History

### Clark's Corner.

As Catfish mentions elsewhere in these pages, a lot has happened here in the last year. As Axia's resident marketing chef, I have the happy duty of meeting lots of folks in lots of places. In light of that, I thought that for our second issue of The Axis I might toss out a few random things I've learned during my travels.

- It is best not to wear tennis shoes when travelling to Minnesota in the snowy months.
- Aimee Mann and Donald Fagen on an iPod make excellent travelling companions.



- Those new resistance soldering irons work great on circuit boards, but using them to build XLR patch cables will make you feel less clever real fast.
- If you arrive on Concourse A

at Sky Harbor Airport and your connecting flight leaves 30 minutes later on Concourse C, you do not have time for a "quick burger."

- If you've spent over half an hour trying to get your laptop to talk to someone else's network with zero results, check to make sure you're not using a crossover cable.
- Finally, cursing at your Windows 2000 server will not cause it to work, although dancing and shaking chicken bones in the light of the full moon might.

I look forward to meeting more of you this year! 🔊

## Would you like Livewire<sup>™</sup> with that?

A networked audio system doesn't just replace traditional consoles and routers — it improves upon them, by providing complete integration with broadcast peripherals and PC-based audio delivery systems. Leading companies in our industry have realized the advantages of tightly integrated systems, and are making new products that reap those benefits.

Some cool new hardware products include the new Telos Nx12 Talkshow System pic-





tured to the left. This twelveline broadcast phone system is equipped with a Livewire network jack that enables you to connect it to your Axia network with just a single Ethernet cable, eliminating the multiple audio pairs, con-

trol cables and external mix-minuses normally required. The new Omnia ONE audio processor also features a Livewire jack, making it simple to choose and process audio



streams directly from the IP-Audio network. The industry-standard Telos Zephyr ISDN Codec now speaks Livewire as well. To the left, you'll see the newest broadcast console from Radio Systems, the Millenium Livewire — one

click and it's connected to your Axia network. And look for the new satellite receiver incorporating Livewire, coming soon from International Datacasting.

The companies shown on this page are just a few of our partners. Check AxiaAudio.com/partners/ to find out who else is making Livewire-compatible products, and ask your favorite supplier about becoming an Axia partner.





























<sup>—</sup> Clark Novak, Axia Marketing



E-mail: Inquiry@AxiaAudio.com Web: www.AxiaAudio.com Tel: +1.216.241.7225

### The Minnesota Public Radio story continued by Clark Novak

use of IP-Audio routing technology.

"There's a lot of good reasons to use IP... a lot of advantages," says Torrey. Historically, he notes, broad-



casting has leveraged technology from the telephone field. "But that's not

where technology's being developed these days. Now, it's being developed around IT networking." Because Axia rides a platform of switched Ethernet, Torrey says, "we've leveraged the R&D efforts focused on IT networking to our advantage by using IP."

"Frankly, we just couldn't see paying a company to develop an expensive, custom hardware solution – switching – when we could pay another company that builds a lot more switching devices a lot less money to get a product that's used by a lot more people."

The switching devices Torrey refers to, of course, are Ethernet switches, which form the backbone of each Axia IP-Audio netowrk.

"The simplicity of the architecture is a huge advantage. This is a 20-room build that we've done. We've got another eight or ten rooms in the old south wing of the building that we'll interconnect. And with multicasting, who knows what future needs will be?"

"With IP-Audio, expansion is mind-bogglingly simple. If you need more capacity, you plug in another

edge switch; if you need more audio ins and outs, you buy more nodes, you plug them in, you give them IP addresses – game over. You don't have to re-think a whole TDM architecture, which frame is reserved for who: you just plug it in and let Ethernet technology sort it out for you."

Cost was another factor in MPR's decision. "There are two pieces to the leveraging of Ethernet for broadcast audio," says Torrey. "One is that you have this big pool of R&D people out there who are focusing on

# "The technology is flexible, scalable, adaptable, and it's the least expensive way to go."

making better Ethernet switches, for example. But the other advantage is that because that market's bigger, the cost for that product is lower."

"We saved a substantial amount of money using the IP approach. Compared to the nearest-priced competitor, we saved something on the order of 30 percent. And we sort of had to pare back the capacity of that other vendor's product in order to even get it within our budget. If we were comparing apples to apples, identical functionality, Axia would have saved even more, perhaps as much as 50 percent."

"So we saw a lot in Axia and made the decision to go this route – no pun intended! And we haven't looked back since."

MPR chose Element control surfaces for its new studios. "A major factor in Axia's favor was the fact that every Element surface would be fully functional, with no additional cost for EQ, dynamics processing or other features," says Torrey.

Air talent likes the consoles and learned how to use them very quickly, according to MPR's Director of Operations, Perry Carter. "The board has proven to be very intuitive... my people picked up on it real quick."

Carter especially likes the Show Profiles feature that allows users to set, save and recall favorite board configurations. "The ability to go in and hit a button, and know that everything you're gonna need for that show is right there — it's a great tool."

At the time of this writing, MPR's Axia IP-Audio network has been on the air for several months, and Torrey is pleased. "It's a new application of a very well

tested and used technology.

The technology is flexible, it's scalable, it's



adaptable, and it's the least expensive way to go. How often do you get to have your cake and eat it too? I can't imagine that we would have gone any other way."

## Element: modular, intuitive control for your Axia network.

Meet Element, the modular broadcast control sur-

face from Axia Audio. With configurations as small as 4 faders and as large as 40, Element is versatile enough

for all your air, production, news and editing applica-

tions. Element can even be configured in split-surface

Element is the ideal blend of advanced features and

intuitive controls, with flexibility and features not

found in control surfaces costing three times as much. Like advanced integration with Telos phone and codec

products, four Program output buses, four auxiliary

sends and two returns, three-band SmartQ<sup>FM</sup> equaliza-

tion on every channel, Omnia dynamics processing on

configurations.

every mic source, powerful yet easy-to-use talkback and monitoring capabilities, automatic mix-minus outputs on every channel, and opto-isolated GPIO logic ports for machine and remote control. And each Element fader can accommodate any source available on the network. In large facilities, there

large facilities, there might be hundreds of sources — and your operators can access any of them with the push of a button.

Element saves fader-source assignments and other configuration data as "profiles" that can be recalled for instant reconfiguration. This ability enables a single Element to be used throughout the day to perform different, specialized air or production tasks, without any downtime. Breakaway segments, in-studio performances or interviews requiring different sources can be loaded instantly. The morning team likes the mics on the left and the phones on the right? Let them lay out the board just they way they want it. Mid-day talent wants a completely different layout? No problem.

And here's something else traditional consoles could never do: because Axia networks are intelligent computer based routing systems, machine logic always follows source audio. As sources are moved from one fader to another – or one studio to another – no logic reconfiguration is necessary! Simply load a source on any fader,

and that fader's controls are immediately communicating with the source. When a profile is loaded Element can even automatically change the lines on your Telos 2101 phone system.

Element is ready for radio's future, too. Thanks to an advanced DSP engine architecture, Element's four program outputs can be configured to mix in either stereo or surround (5.1+2). And Element's on-screen status display is the most comprehensive anywhere, with all meter, timing and options information presented in a friendly, instantly-accessible format using a standard LCD computer monitor. Configuration and man agement can be done remotely from any PC browser—even from off-site.

There are already over 100 Element control surfaces in radio stations worldwide. Maybe Element is right for you, too?



You can easily configure Element to fit your station's unique operationa needs. This happy board operator shows off a 24-position, 18-fader split frame Element at Algoa FM in Port Elizabeth, South Africa.

1

### The Catfish Speaks.

The past year has been terrific for Axia Audio. We've grown like crazy as hundreds of broadcast studios around the world upgraded to Axia. We've expanded our team in R&D, support and manufacturing, and we have a lot more changes in the works.

Recently, we developed and launched our newest control surface, Element. Element is modular, easy to use, packed with innovative features, and can mix in stereo or surround on each of its four program outputs, making it the first broadcast console designed to meet the chal-

lenges of the HD future.



Our Livewire partners have been busy too. We welcome Broadcast Electronics, D.A.V.I.D. Systems, IDC and Netia as our newest Livewire partners, all of

whom are offering or will soon offer products with IP-Audio capabilities. Our parent company, Telos, just introduced a phone system and a codec with Livewire; the new audio processor from Omnia has Livewire too. One of our partners is even offering a console for stations with tighter budgets who want to get started with IP-Audio.

We look forward to another year filled with new challenges, products and ideas. Most of all, we look forward to working with our great clients. We are thankful for each and every one of you. We succeed only when our clients succeed. Here's to our mutual success!"

### Radio Free Axia by Clark Novak

Located in the center of mainland South East Asia, Thailand's capital city of Bangkok is the region's political and cultural center, hosting over 9 million residents — and the South East Asian bureau of Radio Free Asia, a nonprofit corporation that broadcasts news and information in nine native Asian languages.

When it came time to update the Bangkok bureau's 10-year-old digital consoles, RFA wanted more than just to replace old gear — they wanted to be able to share audio resources throughout their facility's five studios.

Their technology search brought them to Axia.



"We knew that the new technology utilizing shared network resources on the consoles was what we wanted," says David Baden, RFA's Chief Technology Officer, "but I had always been reluctant because of the de-centralized wiring point of the switch-type hub—where everything was tethered. I always felt that a hybrid console should exist where local wiring could be kept local rather than run outside the room to a central location."

"The Axia system addressed those concerns and gives us the best of both worlds,"

Baden relates. "It's configurable, we can put all the wiring points in the places where they're most needed, the system is easy to expand, and it provides network switchability, where all points are accessible from anywhere on the network."

According to Senior Technician John Penovich, talent loves working with the Axia system. "Both the SmartSurfaces and the Elements have worked out really well for us," says Penovich. "In reality, there was no learning curve. It took us about 45 minutes to train each broadcaster on the use of the system — and that included powering the system up, loading their individual profiles, and actually using the Elements." Penovich himself likes the remote administration capabilities: "System configuration via the web interface is fantastic because you can do it from any location. At some point, we may offer remote administration of the Bangkok system from Washington."



RFA likes Axia so well that they're planning on upgrading more facilities. Says Baden, "Here in Washington, we have a total of 30 studios and a master control operation. When we replace these consoles, we'll be looking to Axia to handle our requirements...we'd also like to upgrade our other facilities throughout Asia with Axia." To other broadcasters considering IP-Audio networking, Penovich adds "Jump in, the water's fine!"

<sup>—</sup> Michael "Catfish" Dosch, President, Axia Audio

# Conserves AU.



HD Multicast, HD Surround, conventional stereo — Element handles them all. Upgrade your studios with confidence; you're ready for anything.



Technology can save you money.

Consider: computers, VoIP phone systems and bandwidth cost less and deliver more every year. Wouldn't it be great if broadcast gear did, too? Thanks to Axia, it can.

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HD CONVERSION DIGEST

# 'Capable' or 'Ready' For Digital?

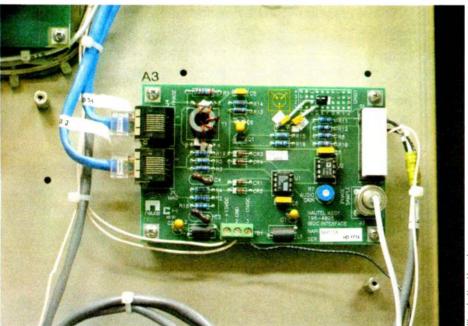
The First in a New Series of Hands-on Tips About HD Radio Implementation

#### by W.C. Alexander

Cris Alexander is director of engineering for Crawford Broadcasting.

As our company has gone through the process of converting its stations for HD Radio, we have learned a great deal. These early lessons were applied to later conversions, making the process much easier and more streamlined. By sharing this information with you, we hope to make your conversion process easier as well. turer will tell you whether or not you will need to replace the transmitter or whether you can work with what you have. The manufacturer also can provide you with an accurate quote for the equipment needed to produce an HD Radio signal, including transmitter modifications, digital exciter and ancillary equipment.

If your transmitter cannot be converted for HD Radio operation and you will need a new HD Radio-ready unit, you have several choices, including Broadcast Electronics, Continental, Harris and Nautel. Others, such as Armstrong and



The IBOC interface board added to a Nautel ND Series transmitter.

Over the next few months, I will, in this column, cover some of the practical considerations in HD Radio conversion for both AM and FM plants. I'll take things in more or less chronological order. In this, the first installment, I'll go over some of the AM conversion preliminaries.

#### Terminology

One of the biggest considerations in converting an AM station for IBOC is transmitter compatibility. A good percentage of modern solid-state transmitters are HD Radio-capable, but not necessarily HD Radio-ready.

To differentiate, an HD Radio-capable transmitter is one that can, with some reasonable amount of modification, be converted. An HD-ready transmitter is one that can directly accept the magnitude and phase signals from the digital generator and transmit an HD-R signal without modification.

If your transmitter isn't already HD-ready, the only way to know for sure if it is HD-capable is to contact the manufacturer and find out. It may well be that transmitters of a certain model number after a certain serial number are HD-capable, so be sure you have your transmitter's serial number handy when you make that call.

The answer you get from the manufac-

QEI, have announced HD Radio-ready units or HD modifications for existing transmitters. Do your homework. Talk to engineers using these products in the IBOC hybrid mode.

Pricing will likely be similar, so performance, ease of installation and reliability become perhaps more significant in product selection. Also consider size, because you have to fit the new rig into available space or else enlarge/augment the space. Remember power requirements, cooling and other environmental factors.

The "guts" of the HD Radio generator essentially are the same for all manufacturers. At the core of each unit is a "digital up-converter" or "DUC" that is manufactured by Ibiquity Digital Corp.

The DUC is a Peripheral Component Interconnect (PCI) card that plugs into a slot in an industrial-grade computer motherboard. The HD Radio generator, then, is really nothing more than a computer built around the DUC. Differences between brands are minimal and largely cosmetic, in my view. Even the software is the same.

In our next column, I'll explain some of the preliminary antenna issues that AM stations must resolve before they can begin HD-R operation.

Got a suggestion for a future topic? E-mail crisa@crawfordbroadcasting.com.

### **COOL STUFF 2006 AWARD WINNER**



Product: Big Pipe LT
Company: Broadcast Electronics Inc.

"Little sister of Big Pipe," a judge enthused. "Imagine 12 to 18 Mbps over a 2.4, 5.3 or 5.8 GHz hop, no license required, 30-mile path not a problem, around the cost of a 950 link."

Roughly for what a traditional 950 MHz link costs, this high-capacity pipeline is capable of data speeds starting at 10 Mbps for transporting

AES and analog audio as well as multiple channels of HD audio and data. For stations upgrading to HD Radio it can handle a main channel, HD2 channels and advanced data services, while providing Ethernet connectivity and RS-232 serial data to the studio or remote site. It's bi-directional, so there's separate telemetry, communications or RPU backhaul links.

The Big Pipe LT works in the 5.3 GHz band and reaches up to seven miles point-to-point; in the 5.8 GHz band it's up to 40 miles. Systems are shipping. Shown, Rex Niekamp holds his "Cool Stuff" medal.

Designers: Collaborative effort led by Rex Niekamp

Price: Varies by configuration

Info: (217) 224-9600 or www.bdcast.com

### **COOL STUFF 2006 AWARD WINNER**



**Product:** The Radio Experience Message Manager and Modules **Company:** Broadcast Electronics Inc.

BE devoted a lot of booth space at NAB to what it calls messagecasting. Here's a suite of applications from The Radio Experience that goes beyond title and artist. It includes everything a station needs to message promos, traffic and weather text. Add-on modules include NewsFlash Pro, LiveCD and others.

Broadcasters can link messages to on-air contests or



commercials, and link to third-party services to message EAS alerts or send "about-to-play" messages to listeners' mobile phones. Message "laundering" by the company's TRE Data Center means title and artist names are displayed properly and are consistent.

What the judges said: "This is the next step to making radio metadata an every-day, cross-platform reality and an integral part of regular broadcast operations." Shown: Allen Hartle.

Designers: Allen Hartle and development team

Price: \$1,100-\$7,700+, depending on number of program channels, output

"pipes" (RDS, HD2, Web, etc.) and extras.

Info: (217) 224-9600 or www.bdcast.com

#### NEWS WATCH

**SIRIUS GRIPE:** Communications General Corp. filed a complaint with the FCC against Sirius Satellite Radio regarding "incorporating 87.7 and 87.9 MHz into the intentional radiator mini-transmitters built into many of Sirius' satellite receivers."

"CGC reasoned that if the FCC ultimately fined Sirius for the use of prohibited frequencies, that action would send a powerful message to other manufacturers of mini-transmitters that they, too, should abandon the use of the prohibited 'below 88 MHz' frequencies," the company wrote in its newsletter.

**ENGINEER RECOVERING:** Volker Schmitt was off of life-support and recovering from injuries suffered in an April accident in Las Vegas. The Sennheiser engineer had been critically hurt in the hit-and-run accident during NAB2006. A company spokeswoman said Schmitt faces "some intensive orthopaedic rehab ... but he's going to make it just fine."





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Telos ProFiler. How will you use it?

AUDIO I NETWORKS

# **Euro Regulators Seek DMB Accord**

by Michael Hedges

**GENEVA** Nine European media regulators are coordinating their digital strategies.

Working in four distinct geographic "sub-projects," German, Swiss, Austrian and Italian authorities are meeting regularly to build a new architecture of "interworking media services," said Peter Kettner, Digital Multimedia Broadcasting project manager for the agency that regulates broadcasting in Bavaria, Germany.

The project carries the umbrella name MI FRIENDS, an acronym for Mobile, Interactive, Favorite TV, Radio, Informa-

tion, Entertainment and New Digital Services.

#### **Economic benefit**

The technical platform is DMB, a South Korean-designed technology that builds upon the Eurkea-147 DAB platform. Samsung and other Korean mobile phone manufacturers displayed new DMB handsets at a German media show last October. The four MI FRIENDS projects began this January and will run for 24 months.

"The goal is to develop and test new media technologies from an economic viewpoint, paying particular regard to social and cultural aspects with man as media consumer at its center." Kettner said.

He said he expects the economic benefit "conservatively" to exceed roughly \$60 billion. German regulators, and the BLM in particular, were under pressure to organize the most beneficial digital services before the first match in the 2006 FIFA World Cup started on June 9. Germany is host for the quadrennial soccer championship.

Just as camera phones have made cell phone manufacturers producers of digital cameras, they are also becoming broadcast radio receiver makers. FM receiving chips are becoming common in next-generation cell phone handsets alongside other new digital platforms, as cameras and PDAs, said experts interviewed for this article.

#### Common geography

The pilot project turns Regensburg, in eastern Bavaria, into a mobile multimedia city for Germany and all of Europe. The choice of Regensburg was based on its size, demographic characteristics and the availability of media outlets. In addition, VHF band III frequencies, requiring less transmitter power, are readily available in the city. The test will involve 100 participants with new mobile receivers.

The second pilot subproject centers on the World Cup. For this, 1,000 participants in Munich will use mobile receivers for audio, video and new services. According to Kettner, the focus will be on radio and interactivity.

All World Cup venues will have adequate DMB coverage. The German state of Saarland also announced plans for DMB pilot tests, although those are not likely to start before the World Cup and no World Cup matches will be held in Saarland

#### The pilot project

turns Regensburg, in eastern Bavaria, into a mobile multimedia city for Germany and all of Europe.

Late September, regulators from several parts of Germany and Austria met to move forward another subproject to coordinate VHF band III digital media in the Lake Constance region, on the border of Germany, Austria, and Switzerland.

The three-country DRM Bodensee project is also intended to provide a framework for cross border regulation. About 30 DAB/DMB radio programs are offered in the Alpine region, a popular tourist destination for Germans, Swiss and Austrians.

A fourth subproject will bring DMB tests to the South Tyrol area of Austria and Italy.

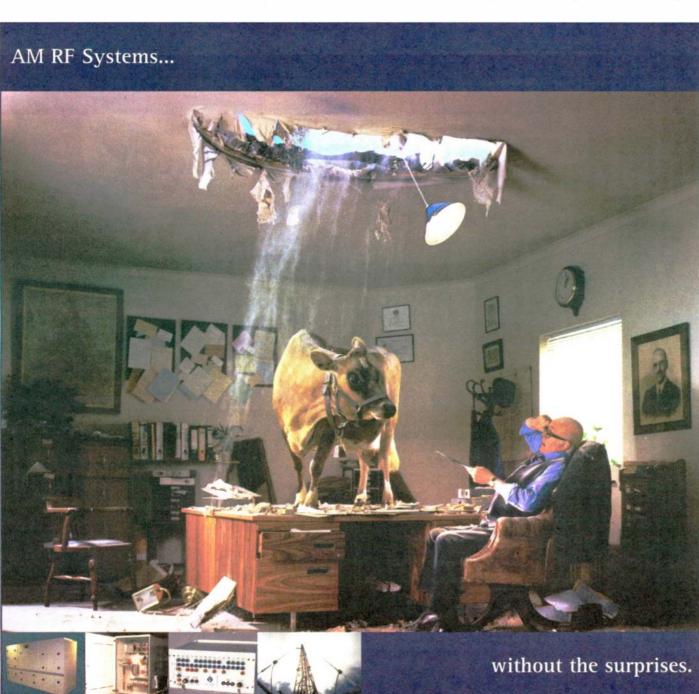
#### Interactivity ingredient

In addition to the audio and visual offerings, the MI FRIENDS pilot emphasizes new services available via DMB platform handset receivers.

Timeshifting, allowing users to listen to audio material outside actual broadcast schedules, has been shown in the United Kingdom, for example, to help drive consumer interest, according to the WorldDAB Forum, which promotes the Eureka-147 technology. Enhanced memory capacity would also allow podcast downloads, considered a value-added service from radio broadcasters.

Interactivity will be included, giving users access to text messages and, with See DMB, page 19





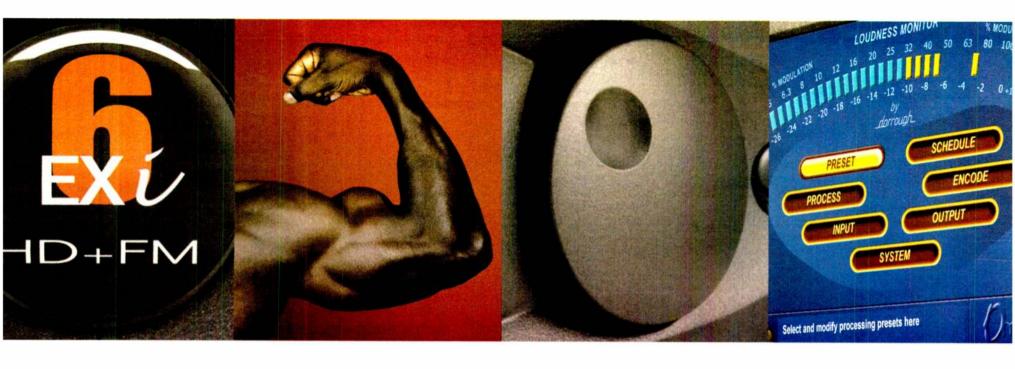


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So why do broadcasters love Omnia-6? The *sound*. The clean, pure, crystal-clear sound (bone-shakingly loud, if you want) that's become the choice of #1-rated stations in New York, Los Angeles, Tokyo, Paris, London, Rome, Sydney and Beijing. The other guys tried to match its winning sound... and failed. So they've settled instead for trying to copy its innovative features.

Features that Omnia pioneered — like dual, simultaneous processing paths for HD Radio™ and conventional FM at no extra cost. The world's first non-aliasing digital clipping system, with composite clipping for the ultimate in competitive loudness. The high-precision Multi-Band Look-Ahead Limiter (invented by Omnia) for perfect HD Radio processing. The six-band limiter for conventional FM, with adjustable crossovers for surgically-precise control over your signature sound. An integrated Dorrough™ Loudness Meter. And of course, the groundbreaking 96 kHz, 24-bit platform that delivers full 20 kHz bandwidth for HD Radio broadcasts. Always innovating.

Which is why the **new Omnia-6-EX***i* makes perfect sense. With **integral HD Radio Diversity Delay** that helps digital broadcasters eliminate analog connections to the HD exciter, ensuring independent analog and digital program streams. And the exclusive new **LoIMD Clipper** that actually **suppresses intermodulation distortion** to deliver audio that's cleaner, clearer and more detailed than ever — no matter how aggressive your processing. (If you already own an Omnia-6, don't worry — there's a low-cost upgrade to give your processor full-fledged Omnia-6EX*i* power.)

A lot of muscle? You bet. No wonder the competition is running scared.

# Expanded

Continued from page 1 the original expanded-band plan.

The parties have filed a petition asking the FCC to waive its policy requiring that licensees return one of their AM allotments for cancellation and related requirements prohibiting the sale of a station during that period. This, the groups believe, would allow sale of stations to recognized small businesses for not more than 75 percent of the station's fair market value.

They are also asking the commission to delay the effective date of its requirement to surrender one of the AM broadcast licenses for one year.

The Minority Media Telecommunications Council, Independent Spanish Broadcasters Association, National Association of Black Owned Broadcasters and Office of Communication of the United Church of Christ Inc. signed on to the effort. Clear Channel Radio, Entercom and Mid-West Family Broadcasting also are among the broadcast petitioners.

According to the parties, "The joint petitioners believe that the preservation of the licenses of the stations which would otherwise be surrendered would serve a valuable public-interest goal by increasing broadcast diversity."

In the petition, the parties ask the FCC to allow the licensee of an expanded-band AM station to assign or transfer control of one of its stations to an entity qualifying as a small business as it applies to broadcasters in the Small Business Association's regulations. The term "small business" refers to any entity having annual gross receipts under \$6.5 million.

Any licensee already qualifying as a small business would not need to sell or return its additional station at all, according to the document.

Currently, 56 stations are operating in the expanded band (RW, March 1). The petition asks the commission to reinstate authorizations that have already been returned and to extend their surrender dates by the same one-year period. Approximately 17 AM broadcast licenses have been surrendered, according to the FCC, including some expanded-band frequencies.

The commission has said it prefers that licensees continue in the expanded band, 1605–1705 kHz, to help relieve interference along the dial. The commission expected most migrators to keep their new frequencies, which have superior coverage areas. In many cases, they operate on the expanded band at 10 kW and 1 kW night non-directional.

Hispanic group has entered into a programming agreement with Entercom by which it is providing Spanish-language programming," according the petitioners.

Broadcast attorney David Oxenford, who worked on the petition on behalf of several expanded-band licensees, said he expects the FCC to act quickly on the "stay request to the status quo" while it determines the merits of the petition.

"We have had some discussions with the folks at the FCC and they are considering the requests," Oxenford said.

The FCC could hold hearings and seek public comment regarding the petitions, or

interference in the AM band — does not justify requiring expanded-band stations to return one of their authorizations when doing so would deprive the listening public of a broadcast service. The loss of any service is inconsistent with the public interest."

FCC officials said they are working through the process but declined further comment on the petitions in May.

The improbability of public interest groups and broadcasters showing solidarity on an issue affecting the broadcast industry is not lost on the participants, Honig said.

"That's the really unique and interesting part of this. Not since 1977 has there been a request before the commission filed as joint petitioners by public interest groups and broadcasters. That was the original request to set up the tax certificate policy," Honig added.

Congress killed the minority tax certificate policy in 1995 for alleged mismanagement. The incentive program gave tax breaks to station or group owners that sold facilities to minorities or women.

# Not since 1977 has there been a request before the commission filed as joint petitioners by

the commission filed as joint petitioners by public interest groups and broadcasters.

— David Honig, MMTC

"Congress has repeatedly asked the FCC to find ways to promote diversity. We think this is an opportunity for the FCC to do what Congress has ordered it to do. It preserves service to the local public and promotes programming diversity and minority ownership," said David Honig, executive director of the Minority Media Telecommunications Council.

#### Spanish-language formats

Honig said numerous AM broadcasters have specifically targeted programming on one of their dual frequencies to serve the needs of minorities and other niche audiences

The petition cites examples in Madison, Wis., and Cedar Falls, lowa, in which Spanish-language formats are now operating on frequencies that would have to be surrendered under current FCC rules.

"Similarly, in Kansas City, a local

it could address the issue as a simple waiver as opposed to official rulemaking,

"This would give opportunities to small business owners to get into the radio business. Several of my clients have entered programming agreements with minority operators and presumably could sell to these groups," Oxenford said.

Honig admits the request doesn't follow the commission's original goals of clearing spectrum and limiting interference.

"Circumstances have changed since the FCC began drafting the procedures to expand the AM band. I don't believe limiting interference in the AM band is a legitimate concern now if it comes at the expense of diversity," Honig said.

According to the petition, "The benefit the commission expected to realize from a licensee's returning its initial AM band authorization — reducing congestion and

#### KDNZ(AM)

One station to which petitioners refer in the filing is KDNZ(AM) in Cedar Falls, Iowa. The 500-watt station, known as Radio La Buena, began broadcasting a Spanish-language format in early 2005. KDNZ broadcasts on 1250 kHz while the group's KCNZ(AM) airs sports on the expanded band frequency at 1650 kHz. The stations are owned by Fife Communications Co.

Station officials say Radio La Buena has connected with Cedar Falls' growing Latino population. Officials estimate it has 25,000 listeners.

"We have found a new purpose on this frequency. There is a great need for this station now that wasn't there five years ago," Jeff Ryant, KDNZ station manager. "Advertisers have used the station to reach a major population. This audience has been largely ignored by other local media."

See EXPANDED, page 19

### **COOL STUFF 2006 AWARD WINNER**



**Product:** WVRC-8 Eight-Channel Web/Voice Remote Control Company: Broadcast Tools Inc.

The WVRC-8 "is a cut above" for a number of reasons, judges found, including eight channels of status, dial-up voice control in your recorded voice, a temperature sensor input and stereo silence sense. "The Web server provides a 100-event scheduler that should handle all the power/pattern changes for even multiple-level PSRA/PSSA authorized AM stations."



The unit offers monitoring and remote control features via Web or dial-up. It has a browser-based function program scheduler and alarm logger; you can notify up to four e-mail recipients. The unit has eight high-rez telemetry channels with independent SPST one-amp raise/lower relays that can be latched, unlatched or momentarily closed.

Each of the eight optically isolated status channels may be configured for 5 to 24 VDS wet or dry input monitoring. The system defaults to English but you can record your own prompts. The WVRC-8 may be programmed for dial-up operation via HyperTerminal, while the Web interface may be programmed using your favorite browser. Ships this summer.

Designer: Don Winget

Price: \$1,059

Info: (360) 854-9559 or www.broadcasttools.com

### **COOL STUFF 2006 AWARD WINNER**



**Product:** M2.0 HD Radio Modulation Monitor Company: DaySequerra

Multicasting is here and DaySequerra looks ready for it with a box intended to deliver high-quality monitoring of HD Radio AM and FM.



The mod monitor includes pushbutton tuning for AM and FM bands including multicast channels, and a total of 20 preset stations for each band. The front panel gives you station status with high-rez multi-color modulation meters and PSD data including station, title, artist, album, genre, program type and comment for HD Radio MPS and SPS Multicast signals.

Option M2.1 adds FM analog signal monitoring capabilities including peaktype measurements of the injection level for 19 kHz pilot, 38 kHz, 57 kHz, 67 kHz and 92 kHz sub-carriers and an indication for synchronous AM noise. A rear-panel MPX Output for external sub-carrier decoding is included.

Option M2.2 includes Remote Dashboard software, a PC-based application, and an Ethernet interface to provide remote control monitoring for AM and FM HD Radio broadcasts and an alarm panel for HD Radio signal and data attributes.

Now shipping.

Design: In-house team

Price: M2.0 \$3,995; M2.1 Option \$1,395; M2.2 Option \$1,395

Info: (856) 719-9900 or www.daysequerra.com

Continued from page 16

soccer in mind, updates on match results.

A back-channel capacity, considered important for the development of new revenue streams, will enable users to send text, audio and video contributions to selected channels. The new handset receivers will also offer 3D visual capacities.

These new services are the latest weapon in the handset receiver battle brewing between Korean manufacturers like Samsung and Finnish giant Nokia. Nokia supports a different mobile platform, DVB-H.

Northern German states, led by Berlin-Brandenburg, are firmly in the DVB-H/ Nokia camp, with southern Germany going the other direction. DVB-H is considered more attractive technically but frequencies for DMB are often easier to acquire. Also, previous tests comparing DMB and DVB-H reception in automobiles suggest an advantage of DMB from about 62 miles per hour to 124 miles per hour.

#### Strategy differences

European regulators are uniting around the digital future, though strategy differences are confusing to consumers, broadcasters and even regulators. Promotion of any specific technology risks disputes with the European Commission.

Last November, the EC Directorate General ruled that the regulator for the states of Berlin and Brandenburg violated state aid rules by financially supporting commercial broadcasters in the digital switchover.

# Expanded

Continued from page 18

The company must surrender one of the frequencies soon, Ryant said, without identifying the exact date. He declined to discuss the company's specific plans for the stations. However, the filing to the FCC indicates the Spanish-language format would likely be eliminated.

"I really believe the FCC should look at what has changed since the rules were drafted in the early 1990s. The population base has changed in many communities and there is a greater need today for programming diversity." Ryant said.

The petition cited other licenses at risk for surrender that are currently providing programming tailored to the needs of minorities in Miami, San Francisco and Seattle and Huntsville, Ala.

Not all of the broadcasters that originally expressed interest in moving to the expanded AM band followed through with their plans. After 710 broadcasters expressed interest in moving, 88 stations were ruled eligible to apply for construction permits in 1997. The commission had released a third and final allotment plan after several appeals. Of the original 88, only 66 stations elected to file construction permit applications, with the FCC issuing 65 CPs.

Several broadcasters who were granted CPs but declined to move told RW previously that they felt the benefits of a move were offset by the cost of upgrading facilities.

The vast majority of AM receivers sold since the late 1990s have included the AM expanded band. Prior to that most tuners topped out at 1600 kHz.

### **COOL STUFF 2006 AWARD WINNER**

Product: HD Radio Market Area Monitor Company: DaySequerra

This is an information collection system that offers diagnostic measurements for any HD Radio

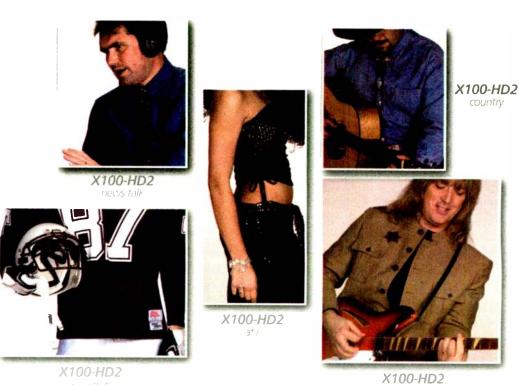
station, whether an independent operation or part of a national group. A station or group can use this single rack-space receiver to record a snapshot of any station's HD output — including audio SNR, level and time alignment and audio program samples, along with cataloging its HD Radio data payload.

The system functions as a quality control platform for groups to monitor regional HD Radio and multicasting signals. But the company also touts it for unattended monitoring and cataloging competitors' output. Big groups can monitor several hundred stations using multiple MAM receivers, putting one receiver in each market. PC-based browser software then can be used to analyze all markets' data. Ships in fall.

Design: In-house team

Price: \$4,995 including software

Info: (856) 719-9900 or www.daysequerra.com



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# **Students Create War News Radio**

At Swarthmore College, a Podcast Idea Draws National Media Attention

⊾d Ritchie

dents at Swarthmore College could are anticipated the impact of War Radio when the launched their about the war in Iraq in early 2005. By called it radio but they didn't atudios or a radio station, just a Web host downloadable MP3 files of programs. Yet, within a year they

found what makes reporting interesting, like getting people from both sides for balanced stories."

Some of those recent stories include "Images of War," a report on the new generation of artists



Wren Elhai and Eva Barboni

War News Radio
A PROJECT OF SWARTHMORE COLLEGE

Volcame to WNR MAY 19 2006

War News Radio fills the gaps in the media's coverage of the ser in Ireq by providing balanced and in depth reporting, historical perspective, and personal stories.

Judging the Press

Does the mainstream media get passing crades for int Trap contrage? This work on War News Radin, we take a top back and assess the reporting of the war.
We'll hear from a US sadder who is sink of the oscialled objective of the western needs.

And we li find out how Anterwan
towapapers handle smages of the war
string to get their enderes to not through the

the state of the plus the words are a front War News Radi

DOWNLOAD (MP3) STREAMING AUDIO

Punket M War Nava Rada, at <u>05.05 P</u>
MAY 12, 2006



This week at War Wee Radio, well hear about how some frequential red and relaxation during wattings.

And we will also revised the question, does terraction with?

Friendly from our large regardances well have about the arrange of the west rate. The processing water statements when the work rate.

in Iraq when you also have to carry a gun.'

The Iraq War is the first in history to be documented in real time in the Internet, the site was reporting recently. This week on War News Radio, we hear from bloggers in the military about how they're using the net. Then, we find out what it's like to be at a military checkpoint, from an Iraqi's perspective and an American soldier's. Finally, we speak with "yo U.S. soldiers who discuss the difficulty of doing humanitarian work

gravated a storm of media coverage and boosted the credibility of podcasting in integralism and traditional broadcasting.

e concept of War News Radio began last year, with a suggestion from Gelber, a producer at CBS program "60 Minutes" and 1963 graduate of

This is a small (1,500 enrollment) liberal arts school southwest of Philadelphia ' · borough of Swarthmore, Pa. Gelber nember of the college's board, and lea was inspired by a similar progran. on Vietnam that aired on Pacifica Radio in the early 1970s. The concept struck a chord with a group of students who volunteered for the project.

A nong the students was Wren Elhai, a soplomore and political science major with an interest in radio. Elhai recalls that the college's small FM station wasn't operating when War News launched. Students produced programs in makeshift studios, and used a Web site (www.warnewsradio.org) to host downloadable MP3 files. Their resources were limited, and so were their skills.

"When we started, we didn't have any experience even with how to hold the microphone to make sure the interviewee wasn't peaking on the tape recorder," says Elhai. "Now we have become pretty good in the technical side of things. And we

that contains a portrait of a young Iraqi filmmaker and a profile of an Iraqi artist who paints the violence. Previous programs examined Iraqi history, exit strategies and reconstruction efforts. Interviews

In finding interview subjects, the War News staff has made good use of Skype, the Internet-based telephone service that uses peer-to-peer technology.

have included journalists stationed in Iraq, experts from academia, Iraqi citizens, American soldiers and their parents and the CEO of the Iraqi Stock Exchange.

Such topics and in-depth reporting have attracted coverage from the New Yorker, Philadelphia Inquirer, BBC, Association Press, NPR and media-related sites and blogs. Elhai credits podcasting — the distribution of subscription audio files over the Internet using RSS syndication — as the key to reaching a wide audience and interesting interviewees.

In finding interview subjects, the War News staff has made good use of Skype, the Internet-based telephone service that uses peer-to-peer technology. Skype offers free local and long-distance calling between computers and allows users to share personal profiles, do searches and download files.

"Something like this couldn't have been without the Internet," says Elhai. "Skype is very helpful because we've been able to interview people at no cost and search for people who know English and are willing to talk to us."

Both podcasting and Skype are free, and the students have kept costs on equipment down as well. Interviews are recorded using "a hodgepodge of little handheld machines," including JK Audio QuickTaps and Sony MDS-520 MiniDisc recorders.

In the studio recording is done using Electro-Voice RE-20 microphones running into a Digidesign Digi002R Pro Tools system connected to a Apple G5 iMac.

Editing is done on the G5 or on laptops, using the Digidesign MBox audio interface.

For recording Skype interviews, a line out of the headphone jack on the iMac runs into the Digi002R and allows for connecting a mic to the computer's mic input. The audio out of the computer is captured by Pro Tools and can be monitored out of the Digi002r's outputs.

"I feel a bit embarrassed to see that list of gear in a magazine that's read by folks with real equipment to play with," says Elhai. "We don't even have a functioning telephone hybrid, due to problems with our college's digital phone system."

The fact that Elhai and his fellow students have seen War News picked up by a number of FM stations should compensate for the embarrassment, according to Marty Goldensohn, their mentor and an award-winning broadcaster in public radio and television since 1975.

"We started out with about 400 listeners a week, and I assume it was the students' parents and my parents and friends," says Goldensohn. "Now on any given week we might have 1,000 to 10,000 listeners. People are interested in us and we have dozens of radio stations airing the podcasts."

Students at Carleton College in Northfield, Minn., plan to join War News and form a bureau station. Swarthmore's WSRN now broadcasts the show. The station has given the students a place to produce their shows.

"Unfortunately," notes Elhai, "WSRN's studios don't have the sort of recording equipment or editing software to do a fully produced show like we're putting together. That's a project I'm working on, on the side. So if anyone has any spare gear lying around, look me up."

### **COOL STUFF 2006 AWARD WINNER**



**Product:** Flexstar HDX-FM/HD Exciter Company: Harris Broadcast Communications Division

"Harris hits a home run with this HD exciter," a nominating judge wrote. "Not a PC-based product, but direct-to-channel, 'real hardware' exciter with RTAC to give the best possible spectrum mask for HD implementation."

The exciter is a third-generation FM/HD product. You use it with the Harris HDE-100 Exporter to create the FM HD signal using the Exgine platform; this allows a sta-

tion to simplify STL installation and makes it easier to manage multicast streams and data.

Features include RBDS, SCA gens, external inputs for RBDS and SCA, as well as analog left and right, dual AES inputs, dual composite inputs and mono input. These are switchable in case of failure of the main feed. Real Time Adaptive Correction, or RTAC, makes this an efficient, powerful device and includes analog group compensation. The exciter has the same footprint as DigitCD or SuperCiter analog gear.

Now shipping. Photo: Geoff Mendenhall and Gary Liebisch.

Designers: Team led by Geoff Mendenhall

Price: \$18,995 analog + HD, or \$10,995 analog (add Exgine card later to

convert to HD)

Info: (800) 622-0022 or www.broadcast.harris.com

MILE STONES

# We Can Really Hear You Now

by Charles S. Fitch

Communications is our business. In broadcasting we use whatever tool works best to make that vital connection. What communication tool has had such an effect on our business — or business in general, or society — as cellular communications?

Time passes quickly when you're having fun, or working your butt off; but can it be that we are coming up on a quartercentury of cellular phones?

Bob Barnett, an executive of Ameritech, made the first cellular call from a car just outside of Soldier Field in Chicago on Oct. 13, 1983. The phone he used that day had all the critical features of the system we have now: portability, multiple hand-off sites, user commanded access to the wireline network, central computer control of both base and user phone frequency as well as power control, billing, etc. This wasn't even your older brother's two-way radio or SMR but a totally new animal.

The technological developmental pace that led to the present worldwide cellular/PCS system is amazing. Wireless communications has been with us in the United States just since that day in 1899 when the physics department at Notre Dame sent the first Morse signals across the street to St. Mary's College, emulating Marconi's seminal work in Europe.

The state-of-the-art communications we enjoy today did not leap forth fully



grown from the head of Jupiter but progressively, each advance built on the last: Morse to amplitude modulated voice, to frequency modulated voice, to FM twoway, to FM analog cellular, to digital cellular/PCS and hopefully onward.

Early adopters of cellular/PCS recognized the value and luxury of a large signal footprint and immediate connection to the wireline network. In broadcasting, sales people and managers were the first users, who sought to make business more efficient, followed by news people, who wanted actualities with dispatch.

With various digital compression

schemes, programmers now schedule remotes of acceptable audio quality, reliably and casually, from just about anywhere via cellular. After twenty-five years the footprint of cellular/PCS is so large that nearly no origination location is beyond it.

#### It wasn't always so

Remotes have long been a staple of radio. Before cellular, programming from remote locations came to the station via radio link, dedicated telephone circuit or, as a last resort, a dial-up POTS line.

Radio links (recall our Marti "mile-stone," RW May 25, 2005, page 18) were usually one-way. Two-way radio links were a luxury most stations couldn't afford, as this feature doubled the equipment cost. You knew you were in the "big time" if you had a two-way radio system.

Metallic pairs from the telephone company — just a pair of wires straight from the remote to the studio — usually sounded dull over a couple of miles in length but they did offer the luxury of two-way connection.

The board operator could send a sample of the program feed down the wire to the remote; rudimentary intercom was possible for cues and interaction right to the moment when you sent proming for air.

When all else failed, you could POTS line for connection, especial news actualities. The usual gambit so make the connection to the studio as unscrew the mouthpiece on the hard After removing the mic cartrid, would clip onto the mic posts the of your mixer or cassette recorder.

It didn't sound very clean or his-POTS did work. I have done innuroad basketball games and racing by commandeering a pay phone is or four hours. That's a lot of quarte

# Can it be that we are coming up on a quarter-century of cellular phones?

Usually the folks at the remote would set up, turn on the transmitter and then, assuming they were getting through to the studio, ask the person at the board to use a code word on air, do an ad-lib promoting the upcoming remote or break programming to let them know they had a connection.

Most stations chose to break the programming quickly, which could be done in short order. The most dreaded signal you could hear in the earpiece of your little transistor receiver was a "double break," which meant that there was a problem. You needed to find a POTS phone and call the studio.

The flexibility, reliability, covery convenience of cellular comparer came before are stunning. And of cellular service goes dor by every staff member and do gone up and applications have

Right now, imagine your sta out cellular. Gee it would feel like

Charles S. Fitch, W2IPI, is a reg professional consultant engineer, me, of the AFCCE, senior member of the S, lifetime CPBE with AMD, licensed electr cal contractor, former station owner and former director of engineering of WTIC (TV) in Hartford, Conn., and WHSH(TV) in Marlborough, Mass.

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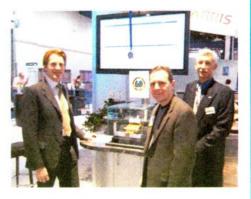
HD Radio® is a registered trade mark of iBiquity Digital Corporation

## **COOL STUFF 2006 AWARD WINNER**



**Product:** MasterLink-IP Company: Harris Broadcast Communications Division

IP is the bomb these days, and creative products popped up all over the NAB convention. MasterLink-IP is a low-cost audio-over-IP system. Harris sees it finding many uses: to relay EAS audio back to a studio; for confidence monitoring of distant translators, boosters or full-service radio stations that cannot be heard at the main studio; as an RPU; for emergency STL; or for program distribution up to eight simultaneous locations, and more with database



management. Bit rates of up to 192 kbps provide quality MP3 audio.

"A highly scalable, incremental and cost-effective way to leverage the power of IP audio distribution within a legacy infrastructure," the judges found. Shipping in June.

Shown: Johannes G. Rietschel of Barix, Jim Paluzzi of Colorado Public Radio and Jim Hauptstueck of Harris.

Designers: Harris, Colorado Public Radio and Barix *Price*: Varies by configurations, units start at under \$500 *Info*: (513) 459-3719 or www.broadcast.harris.com

# **BSW SPECIAL!!**

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Sony MZM100 **Hi-MD Recorder** w/Stereo Microphone

Perfect for any portable recording application or playback, the MZM100 has a line-in jack and a mic input. You can use the line-in to archive audio or data, and the minijack input is there for making field

recordings using your favorite microphone (this model also includes the ECM-DS70P highquality, two-head, plug-in stereo mic). The MZM100 supports MP3/ ATRAC3/ATRAC3plus and linear PCM audio formats, and supports WMA and WAV audio formats with conversion to ATRAC3. Each Hi-MD disc can hold up to 1GB of audio. One HiMD disk included as well as remote control stick, rechargeable battery, USB cable and AC power adaptor. Offer expires 7/31/06 or while supplies last.

MZM100PROMO Total List \$569.99

LowestPrice only \$399

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HD202PKG List \$149.75

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From the visionaries at Day Sequerra comes the this new HD radio modulation monitor (AM and FM). The M-2's ultra-low noise RF front-end with built-in pre-selector and double-balanced mixer provides pinpoint sensitivity for FM broadcasts, and its over sampling DAC and class-A biased audio outputs ensure the highest fidelity demodulation of HD Radio programs. Call for our sale price!

#### M-2 FEATURES

- Synthesized pushbutton tuning [AM, FM, multicast]
   High level direct (+7Vp-p) and antenna level RF inputs for AM and FM
- Bargraph metering of HD and analog programming
   HD Radio digital-to-analog time-alignment monitor

Day Sequerra also has the downsized M-4, a radio tuner with multicast capability for monitoring analog & digital signals. In stock!!

#### **Marantz PMD660** CompactFlash Recorder

The portable PMD660 records hours of MP3 audio on a single CompactFlash card (or as high-quality uncompressed 16-bit .wav files) and easily transfer them to your computer

via USB. You can even edit in the unit itself - use simple cut-and-paste editing or take advantage of non-linear, non-destructive playlist editing. Up to 99 virtual tracks let you compare edits, set up multiple sound bites or provide interview segments of varying durations.

- Onboard mics for on-the-spot stereo recording Two XLR inputs and stereo mini-jack line I/O
- Up to four hours recording on AA batteries Optional RC600 wired remote with peak indicator

PMD660 List \$649.99

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#### **Behringer 4-Channel Headphone Amp**

Here's a great deal on a headphone amp. The Behringer HA4700 offers four stereo amps, each with a stereo aux input, mono/stereo and left/right mute switches, and balance and volume controls. Additionally, it has XLR and 1/4" line inputs, a 2-band EO and an accurate 8-digit LED output level meter per channel.

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Bright LED dot matrix displays show inputs
Analog/digital Program and Audition stereo outs

2 mono analog outs and 4 generated mix-minus outputs

virtually any digital source gear. Its DSP digital metering simultaneously displays VU columns and peak hold. Powerful caller tools generate mix-minuses automatically. Dim: 30"W x 20"D x 7"H.



**AUDIOARTS' ENGINEERING** 

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14 input faders plus two caller faders

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Accessories:

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D16FSD Dual fail safe power supply List \$1,683.00 D16CPSD Sliding copy stand



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name (oops!) but we CAN show you a picture of the
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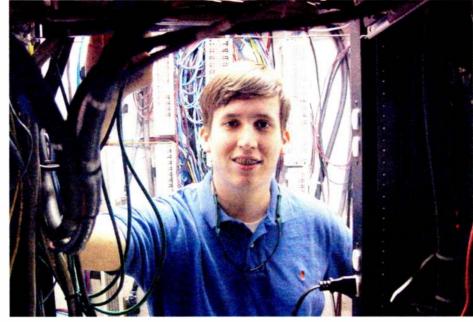
# Brannan Learns the Ropes in Georgia

In the Feb. 1 issue - seeking to explore the question "Where will the next generation of engineers come from?" Radio World reported on several young radio broadcast engineers. Here we launch a regular series of occasional profiles keeping readers up to date with the industry's "new blood," the promising stars of tomorrow who may also be teaching their mentors a few tricks.

Joseph Brannan is 23 and an engineer in the Columbus, Ga., Clear Channel cluster. His uncle was a ham operator. While still in high school, at age 16, Brannan became a board op at WDAK(AM), part of the group where he is now employed.

He is now a student at Auburn University, a fifth-year senior because of changes in his major. Brannan works at the stations when he is not studying or in class; one of his first tasks was to help introduce his stations to the Internet.

'In 2000 when I started here, only the sales managers and program directors had computers," he said. "Someone asked me how we could get Internet access in the studio, so I strung a phone line across the hall from the fax machine and got us a dial-up connection." Though not out of school, he already is an SBE Certified Broadcast Networking Technologist.



Joseph Brannan, CBNT

"The biggest challenge radio faces is figuring out new delivery methods," he said. "We need to push out HD2, streaming, even getting our content onto cell phones through a data network. We won't be the 'radio industry' anymore and transmitters might not be the primary delivery method of the future. I think as many people will listen to our stream as our broadcast signal eventually."

"I want to know how the sales department works, how orders are generated and how logs are built," he said. "Where does it all interconnect to the automation system? As our contract chief engineer Frank McLemore told me, radio engineers have to become system-level engineers. Understanding component-level work is great, but it's better to understand how the entire system functions so we can spot problems."

#### Not just an IT guy

This is a very IT-intensive company and does a great job of investing in engineering resources," Brannan continued. "Every studio has a computer, every person has a computer. When I started they were running everything out of one little server in a closet. Now we have, besides our Prophet NexGen hardware, about five or six servers to handle Arbitron, traffic, billing and production."

But Brannan is also learning the RF

side of the business. "I've been going around to transmitter sites with Frank, learning to understand basic diagrams. He is teaching me a lot and is very patient with me as I learn more about engineering."

Brannan's Clear Channel mentors also include Ben Brinitzer, CPBE, regional vice president of engineering for the Mid-South region, and Steve Davis, senior vice president of engineering. Brinitzer says Brannan is "at the top of my list for upcoming guys ... he is one of our best and is tapped on occasion to assist us in other markets; he is a member of last year's Katrina response." Brannan also was recently tapped to help in Clear Channel's recent consolidation project in Washington, D.C.

"His title is IT but he is our engineer in the trenches," Brinizter said, noting McLemore's "superb oversight" of his

Others who have influenced Brannan include Gabe Warren, director of technology for the Creative Services Group, and Warren Davis, senior regional IT manager.

#### All about the people

In the immediate aftermath of Katrina, Brannan said, Clear Channel put the needs of people ahead of normal business considerations.

"When our engineers said, 'We need this generator for our families or to get back on the air,' there were no questions asked," he said. "It was a great counterbalance to normal corporate decisionmaking. We dropped the commercial load during that time because getting information to the people was more important. The only advertising I remember hearing was 'Hey, XYZ store has these supplies if you need them.'

"I stayed down in Baton Rouge for a day and a half helping get stations back on. It put everything into perspective.'

Brannan recently became engaged and plans to marry when he and his fiancée

Tell Radio World about a young engineer for whom you see a bright future. Write to radioworld@imaspub.com.

#### Brannan predicted that people won't own

traditional radios one day; they'll just have a data connection.

Brannan is an accounting major but has taken courses in programming and

'Auburn's mass communications department was more geared to understanding demographics and the programming side of things," he said. "I was already working at the campus station, WEGL(FM), so I wasn't going to get a lot more technical training in my classes.

While Brannan enjoys engineering, he also is keenly interested in the business side of radio.

Brannan predicted that people won't own traditional radios one day; they'll just have a data connection.

"People will be listening on more appliances, anywhere they are," he said. 'The important thing is to give listeners access any time they want. Right now people can get AM and FM easily, and our challenge is to make it all just as available?

He also believes it is important for an engineer to understand his role in the greater picture.

### **COOL STUFF 2006 AWARD WINNER**

Product: NetWave digital on-air console Company: Harris Broadcast Communications Division

Judges found this "a lot of console for the money" and liked its numerous busses, affordable approach to networking and "very cool heads-up display for metering.

Harris calls NetWave a cost-effective stand-alone board that brings some of the benefits of networking and audio management to middle/ small-market stations and independent broadcasters. An optional network port allows it to function in a

networked environment with other Harris/VistaMax networked systems. Look for the company to market this with its new Envoy audio management system as an affordable contemporary architecture.

Available in 8-, 16- and 24-channel versions; all may be networked as an option. Ships in July.

Design: A Harris/Pacific design team led by Ted Staros

Info: (800) 622-0022 or www.broadcast.harris.com

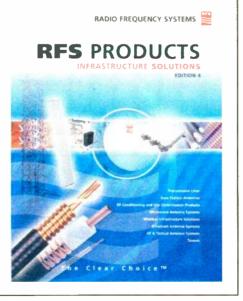
MARKET PLACE

### **RFS Updates** Catalog

A fourth edition of the Radio Frequency Systems products catalog is available. It offers items in eight product ranges for industry applications including radio and TV broadcasting, in-tunnel and in-building wireless and

The catalog is available from RFS sales representatives or online.

For information contact RFS at (203) 630-3311 or www.rfsworld.com.





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# Overcome ITSM Stage Fright

You're on Your Way to Becoming A Successful IT Service Management Star

#### by Bill Eldridge

This is the last in a five-part series about IT Service Management. Review the series at www.rwonline.com; click on the tab IT Service Management.

You've gone through the hoops of getting your IT Service Management together; now it's time to go live. But are you ready? What distinguishes a good IT show from a bad one? And how to prevent stage fright?

Much of what people think of as IT comes from the public-focused Service Desk, which handles Incident Management and some Problem Management. In of thorough preparation and comfort with the material.

#### **Timing**

The Service Desk should have its act timed - how long to handle an Incident of whatever type — and have systems back in service by the end. The recovery process involves tools, spare parts, specific roles, procedures, communications, a business case and a limited mission.

Your Service Desk personnel should be comfortable running through the basic types of swap-outs and repairs required in typical cases, and they should have a good sense of procedures in unrehearsed scenarios. They should know the types of

duty. Well-designed IT Service Management should instead promote outstanding performance within agreed-upon boundaries through planning.

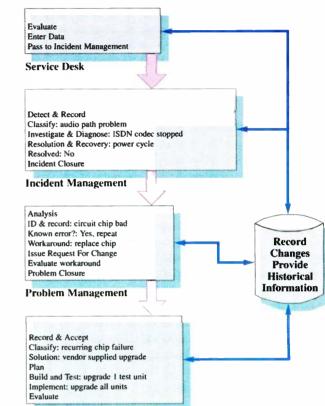
Training can be especially important for the handling of Incidents. Life is much easier when your users know how to work around system failure, turning trouble tickets into issues for Problem Management to resolve at a convenient time rather than urgent matters for the Service Desk.

Some methods of helping users to Do It Yourself include rebooting machines, using spare stations and studios or choosing alternate transmission paths, though there are rational limits to users' abilities as well as costs involved with providing spare facilities. But for off-hours users, emergency training can cut down on latenight and weekend pages and the need for more 24/7 staff.

Of course not all Incidents are initiated by users. Your monitoring systems or routine maintenance can flag needs, failures or impending doom, and it's up to the Service Desk to assign the proper priority for the response.

See IT. page 28





Result: Debugged and Upgraded

Change Management

The process flow behind facility recovery, including timing and resources, makes for a professional IT performance.

#### You've gone through the hoops of getting

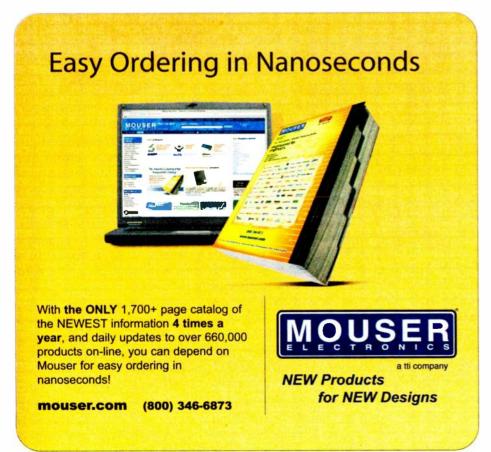
your IT Service Management together; now it's time to go live.

1T Service Management, Incident Management is concerned primarily with returning a system to a usable state. although service requests as well as failures can constitute Incidents.

Being out front, it's easy to go with the flow, handle requests as they come in and take care of problems as they appear. This is a recipe for chaos. A good performer prepares the audience, has practiced the material and knows just how far to go. He or she even anticipates hecklers and has witty comebacks at the ready. ITSM should be no different. A good performance is creativity layered on top

inputs needed for a solution --- personnel, equipment, processes, et al. They should know when and how to escalate their response to problems to higher levels or more specific support functions. and when to stop, including how to use a diplomatic "No."

The priority of an Incident is based on urgency of the problem crossed with business impact, usually defined and limited by Service Level Agreements. While some common sense is required in performing duties, too often the Service Desk is seen as providing heroics - performing above and beyond the call of



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### **COOL STUFF 2006 AWARD WINNER**

Product: NeuStar SW4.0 Codec Pre-Conditioner Company: Harris Broadcast Communications Division

"A huge step forward in user interface and PC processing control for codec pre-processing," one judge wrote. "Brings this once-arcane science into every station's hands and allows codec pre-processing to become another part of a broadcaster's sonic signature."

The SW4.0 Codec Pre-Conditioner is aimed at HD



agement tools. This is the software version of the NeuStar 4.0; it can run directly on the Importer, offering multiple audio channels of processing within one computer. The software also can be placed in-line ahead of Internet streams, DAB, DRM, satellite, compressed STLs, ISDN and other channels for codec improvements and audio processing in front of any low-data-rate transmission path. Ships in

Designers: Neural Audio Team

Price: \$2,500 single channel, \$3,500 multi-channel

Info: (800) 622-0022 or www.harris.com



# IT

▶ Continued from page 26

Once the Incident is handled, it should be properly recorded and passed on to Problem Management as needed. While in practice the cause of Incidents may be diagnosed and fixed in handling the Incident, this is a second hat, and should be kept separate, at least mentally, from the prime responsibility of restoring order.

Don't forget the role of external systems in recovery. While you may have underpinning contracts for third-party vendors, these may not help when you need to be back online. Plan your contingencies around the likelihood of external problems, and try to understand the vendors' emergency flows before you need to rely on them.

#### The human touch

Once the situation is handled, make sure users are aware of and using the restored system. It is also time to perform whatever public relations are required, be it a simple e-mail noting the problem is fixed, or a full facility briefing of what happened.

While a good automated trouble ticket system will handle much of the work for you, there is always room for a human touch. This is important not just for keeping users informed and productive but also for keeping a good attitude towards the clientele and putting the relationship to good use. One study noted that only 15 percent of facility problems are caused by people, but almost all problems can be better solved through feedback from those familiar with the systems.

Though Incident Management is separate from Problem Management, the staff that resolves problems has wide access to historical data and current Configuration info that can be useful to Incident efforts as well as Problem diagnosis. Recent change to the facility is a frequent source of breakage, so that logging changes and being able to pull up maintenance records quickly are important for the recovery effort. Anything that can help automate

logging and bring the reporting closer to the point of service helps ensure accurate records. It's not uncommon to be stopped in the hall on the way to your desk, so think of ways such as PDAs and logging stations to make updating the database more immediate.

Of course if the Configuration Database and other resources are down, they cannot help. Some thought needs to be given to what resources and informait into the routine. Otherwise, there will never be a "good" time when staff can review procedures and knowledge — daily firefighting will take precedence.

#### Sustainable

Problem Management is of course not standalone. Aside from areas mentioned, there are strong obvious ties with Capacity, Continuity, Availability and Security, as well as Financial and Service and others involved are paying attention to the important points. Aside from outsourcing your job and cutting your budget, management might be making large errors in planning due to faulty understanding of IT operations, while lower staff may be adding to problems by not following procedures. Be prepared to follow up on pertinent issues in more depth. IT performance may impact other strategic issues, and its goals should be aligned as part of the overall business.

Managing expectations and providing calibrated service are two goals of ITSM, though "shameless self-promotion" should not be neglected. A quiet IT department may have problems or be under control, but users and management typically will suspect the worst. It's not often that a shy, hesitant performer wins over a crowd, and the same can be said for IT. Come in prepared, organized and ready to improvise, and the chances of success improve 1,000 percent.

# Too often the Service Desk is seen as providing heroics. Well-designed IT Service Management should instead promote outstanding performance within agreed-upon boundaries through planning.

tion are critical with power outages, network or server failures; make sure backup versions are available, such as a PDA, USB drive on a laptop, a hard-printed copy or an accessible off-site system.

By the time an issue arrives at Problem Management, it is typically an Error that needs to analyzed and resolved. This is generally a fix or a workaround matched to a new or known error, or a Request For Change (RFC) affecting equipment, software, processes, training or even the Service Level Agreements.

Monitoring known problems and proactively preventing outages is a main part of the job. But the facility doesn't stand still — learning about new weaknesses, building up better capabilities for debugging and monitoring, going proactive on system upkeep and staying abreast of improved technical solutions are some of the tactics for problem handling. Make problem, process and facility improvement part of the daily and weekly schedule, build it into the budget, force

Level management. Release Management attempts to decrease problems through controlled rollouts and homogenous systems. Even when a fix is in place, the solution needs to be monitored to make sure it's effective and sustainable. Problem Management should drive the effort to make the facility reliable and understood.

Understanding takes on a special role with management. Aside from users, Service and Problem roles need to communicate effectively with management, both to provide metrics on performance and facility needs, as well as to express the reasons for its existence. Look at ways to tie your Configuration Database and trouble ticket systems into management reports that provide simplified graphical views of key facility metrics. Even line personnel need to see processed relevant metrics and other information, not raw unreadable data.

Try to send out reports automatically, not on demand, and follow up with human contact to make sure management

#### Smooth the edges

We've covered the gamut of IT Service Management, from its business goals, structuring and planning down to implementation. But this is just a framework; a real-world system accounts for the type of facility, the people who work there and end users of services.

Some audiences are better than others, while every performer has an off night here and there. Train your ITSM sights on the long term, a steadily improving act moving from stage fright through remembering your lines, adapting your content to the crowd and finally, perfecting your delivery.

Every act starts off a bit stiff, but try to have fun along the way, choosing appropriate goals and challenges and enjoying your successes. These will smooth the edges on the long path to becoming a successful ITSM performer.

Bill Eldridge is a musician and engineer who has worked in studios, the Internet and radio broadcast for 20 years. He lives in Prague and is involved with mobile phone video streaming and project management. Write to him at dcbill@volny.cz.

### **COOL STUFF 2006 AWARD WINNER**



**Product:** USB Match Plus and USB Matchbox **Company:** Henry Engineering

Bill Sacks dips a toe back into the broadcast water with the USB Match Plus, a USB-to-XLR interface that is used in place of a sound card in a PC or laptop computer; it provides stereo balanced line-level ins and outs on XLR connectors at professional levels, with audiophile performance and the ease and reliability of a USB connection.



It eliminates hum, buzz and interface hassles, with great sound quality. Features include LED level meters, reference-quality headphone amp and a speaker output that can be muted with an external closure. These boxes also are powered by USB itself. A "lite" version, the USB Matchbox, lacks LED meters and headphone output.

Designers: Bill Sacks, Kim Sacks, Hank Landsberg Price: \$695 (USB Match Plus) and \$495 (USB Matchbox)

Info: (626) 355-3656 or www.henryeng.com

### **COOL STUFF 2006 AWARD WINNER**



**Product:** FlashMic DRM85 **Company:** HHB Communications Ltd.

"A handy tool," the judges said. Promoted as "the world's first professional digital recording microphone," this unit combines a Sennheiser omni condenser capsule with a Flash recorder.

It's aimed at radio journalists who will enjoy not having to worry about cables. Push a button and



you're recording Broadcast WAV files, either MPEG 2 or uncompressed at 48, 44.1 or 32 kbps. Drag-and-drop file transfer at up to 90x real time is enabled by a USB connection. Two AA batteries provide eight hours of power. An adjustable pre-record buffer and 1 GB of Flash memory are provided.

Design: Joint effort of HHB and Sennheiser, led by HHB's Henry Edwards

Price: \$1,399

Info: (860) 434-9190 or www.hhbusa.com

Audemat-Aztec said it won a contract from Global Security System Technologies to provide broadcast equipment for an emergency alert application in Mississippi. RDS encoders, FM/RDS monitoring units and Broadcast manager are to be installed to cover the state. ...

The **BitXchange** morning show prep service signed **WIOQ(FM)** in Philadelphia. The supplier said it has 120 affiliates. ...

International Datacasting Corp. said Radio y Televisión Unida in Ecuador launched a radio network using IDC's SuperFlex satellite datacasting system. ...

Music station WERE(AM) switched to a "Hot Talk" format using an Omnia-5EX HD+AM. The chief engineer is Rick "Rocco" Bennett. Separately the supplier reported sales of its Omnia-6EXi HD+FM processor to KBCO(FM), Denver; KRCL(FM), Salt Lake City; and WENN(FM), Birmingham, Ala.; and an Omnia-3AM to WPKE(AM), Pikesville, Ky.

Sister company Telos Systems reported phone systems sales to WMXD(FM), Detroit; KPLA(FM), Columbia, Mo.; and KKFR(FM), Phoenix.

Axia IP-Audio systems were sold to Radio Free Asia, Bangkok; KWMU(FM), Univ. of Missouri, St. Louis; Minnesota Public Radio, Saint Paul; and KINV/KDOS in Austin, Texas....

Harris announced the first sales of its HT-HD+ tube-type HD Radio transmitter to Clear Channel stations WCOL(FM) in Columbus, Ohio and KRFX(FM) in Denver. Dan Mettler is regional VP of engineering for Clear Channel Radio. ...

Micropower Corp. said BBC Radio & Music is using its Powergold Music Scheduling Software for Windows. Micropower designed an interface that works with the BBC network radio playout system, VCS dira! The products exchange data via XML....

**OMT Inc.** said **Vista Broadcast Group** has standardized its 19-station radio group on the iMediaTouch Digital Audio Delivery System.

Separately, ZJAM Youth Ministries, a syndicated Christian youth music and information network, will use OMT's iMediaTouch Broadcast Automation to produce its radio show from Spring Hill, Tenn.

WideOrbit Inc. said its research, sales, traffic and billing software has now been installed in 400 radio, TV and cable operations....

Jampro said the Radio Voice of Vietnam, headquartered in Hanoi, ordered of two JFVD high-power FM antenna systems. Jampro said the model was selected due to the hot, humid tropical climate. Fiberglass radomes will provide additional protection.

Separately, Jampro said KHHT(FM) is using a JSCP FM antenna in support of a new digital signal. The 50 kW Clear Channel station serves Los Angeles with contemporary AC. ...

Netia said Rai Radio will use the company's system in all of its offices and stations in Italy. Rai now uses the Radio-Assist digital audio software in its Rome-based radio stations. Radio-Assist will be launched in about 20 regional sites, which will be connected over a WAN to Radio Uno in Rome.

Send news of recent equipment sales or purchases to radioworld@imaspub.com.

### **COOL STUFF 2006 AWARD WINNER**

**Product:** H3-D 5.1 Channel Surround Sound Microphone **Company:** Holophone

The Holophone H3-D is designed to make surround sound broadcast easy; 5.1 surround can be aired over standard or digital radio using any LT/RT matrix surround encoder. As a single-point source surround sound capture device, the company says, the H3-D is designed to provide a front end for capturing surround in studio or in the field.

Said one judge: "This brings the creation of high-quality surround sound content to new levels of cost-effectiveness and convenience." (Added another: "It's about time FM went surround.")

Shipping this summer. Shown: Jonathan and Michael Godfrey.

Design: Michael Godfrey

Price: \$1,695

Info: (416) 362-7790 or www.holophone.com



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# For Many, NAB Is About the Shopping

by Jackie Broo

Judging from the comments of NAB2006 attendees, the NAB is doing things right when it comes to presenting displays and equipment at its annual convention extravaganza.

Most of those sampled by Radio World in an unscientific survey were fairly pleased with the equipment and technology that the show had to offer, though it also appears sessions have become a little underwhelming for some attendees.

Dane Johnson, director of operations at KUOW(FM) in Seattle, liked what he saw at the show but doesn't attend presentations. He said, "I've stopped going to the sessions because I don't think that they are radio-friendly anymore. I kind of feel that NAB has been neglecting the radio side, especially the radio sessions."

Johnson said the show has become all about buying for his station. "We are rebuilding a bunch of studios, and we are looking at consoles. As far as the floor goes the vendors are all great; that hasn't changed much."

David Remund of Regent Communications, Yuba City, Calif., said, "I am generally pleased with the show, but I would like to see all the radio engineering sessions come back over to the North Hall so we don't have to truck back and forth. If you are over [in the South Hall] and you have a half hour between sessions, you can't go come back and forth" to the radio exhibits. "When the sessions are in the North Hall, you can pop back or forth real easily.

His Regent colleague Michael Hutchens of Flint, Mich., said, "I have managed to fill up three days just wandering around the exhibitor hall. And I am still not going to see everything.' Hutchens, Remund and friend Mark Young had only one big complaint this year: shuttle bus service. They reported a 45-minute wait rather than the more typical 20 minutes between shuttles.

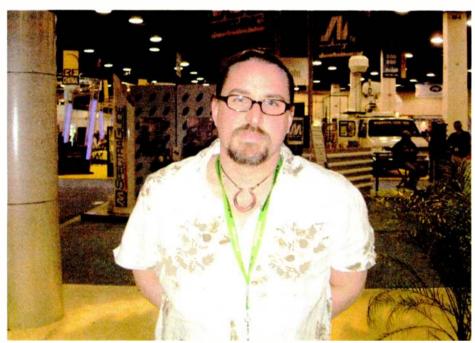
#### Shopping

Asked about session content, Dennis Wharton, senior vice president of communications of NAB, "We spend an enormous amount of time surveying attendees and asking for advice on the sessions, in order to present the most worthy experience possible. We're anxious to get feedback and comments from attendees.

Radio attendees, he said, "are our truly valued customers." Wharton invit-



From left: Mark Young, Michael Hutchens and David Remund of Regent



Dane Johnson

ed comments or suggestions about conventions; e-mail Susan Platt at splatt@nab.org.

Some attendees were on a mission, skipping seminars and going straight to the exhibits. Many said the show was the best way to see, hear and test new gear that was available in the marketplace. As one person succinctly put it, 'I am here for shopping.'

Heywood Greenberg of Lynchburg College, Lynchburg, Va., echoed that theme: "This is a great way for us to see where the technology is going. We're most interested in looking at podcasting products; in fact that is where I am headed right now."

One attendee wasn't pleased with where some of the product booths were placed on the convention floor. Michael Gay of Cumulus Media in Atlanta was looking for storage technology and thought that the products were spread out over too much of the floor space. "Last year, and the year before, things were a little more logical in the layout.' Although he did not attend sessions this year, he has been a presenter in the past and felt that they were worthwhile and well organized.

Two newbies to the show, Brad Wilson and Ross Conner of Virginia production company Pillar to Post, had started in the North Hall and were anxious to take it all in. They had come to

the show to check out new equipment.
"I was here all day yesterday," Conner said. "It was pretty impressive. It is pretty cool to talk to the Dolby people. It was very informative and very helpful." They both found the environment casual, with "tons of people who are interested in what you are.'

#### And more shopping

Fatemia Ricks with Red Dragon, a media production company in Detroit, said, "This is my first show and I am very excited. This is really amazing. I was just testing a few of the mikes. I'm seeing some possibilities."

Farther along the experience spectrum, Douglas Barton of KMTI(AM) in Manti, Utah, has been coming to NAB for three decades and was looking at transmitters and antennas. "We'll be buying a lot of stuff over the next two years," he said.

He felt that session prices were somewhat expensive and that the content could be improved. Barton usually waits to read the session reports in trade publications. He was also not happy about the cost of using the monorail. "I don't know if [NAB] can do anything about [that]. When you can park your

See FLOOR, page 31

### **COOL STUFF 2006 AWARD WINNER**



Product: Model 532 FM/HD Radio Mod Monitor Company: Inovonics Inc.

This company was founded in 1972 with the idea of offering a solid-state recording electronics package for Ampex 350-series tape recorders. Its latest is a full-featured mod-monitor for FM and FM/HD Radio.

It features bargraph readouts for FM carrier deviation, analog FM program metering and HD Radio program parameters, and includes an RF and FM-baseband spectrum display. The unit supports HD multicast programming; it also measures FM subcarrier injection, gives alarms for out-of-tolerance operation and decodes PAD and RDS/RBDS messaging. The 532 has serial, USB and TCP/IP network ports for remote control, data logging and simplified firmware updates.

Ships this autumn. Jim Wood is shown.



Design: Inovonics designers "with a little help from our friends"

Info: (800) 733-0552 or e-mail info@inovon.com

Product Showcase



#### Model DAI-2 Dialup Audio Interface

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- DTMF operated controller with relay outputs
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- four logic inputs with programmable output
- · balanced audio input and output with ALC



615.228.3500 niore information: www.sinesystems.com

# Floor

► Continued from page 30 car cheaper than taking the monorail, that's not good."

On conference pricing, Wharton of NAB said the cost for the Broadcast Conference Package — which included the Broadcast Engineering, Broadcast Management and Business, Law and Regulation Conferences — is affected by several factors including the amount of work by NAB staff and the number of people that are brought in to participate in the conferences, among other things. This year's conference package was \$495. He said NAB has tried to keep costs affordable.

Mike Starling of National Public Radio and NPR Labs was wearing two hats as an attendee and an exhibitor; NPR was present in several booths. He said, "I think the show itself is absolutely fabulous. But Las Vegas is showing a little wear and tear on its logistics. In particular, they need to work with the Convention and Visitors Bureau to get more

#### I am generally

pleased with the show, but I would like to see the radio engineering sessions come back to the North Hall.

— David Remund

cabs here when we have the big sessions. Or they should extend the monorail to all the hotels and get it fully populated with monorail [or] cabs, so they can handle the big crush of people."

Of sessions at the Public Radio Engineering Conference, which was held concurrently with NAB but is not part of it, Dane Johnson felt that there was more emphasis on TV this year, and would like to see more focus on new technologies for public radio.

Starling was involved in the PREC planning; he said public TV and radio engineers were together this year because of lack of available space at the Hilton and LVCC.

"This year [NAB] had so many activities at the front of the conference that they didn't have space for us. That's why we merged with our PBS engineering colleagues. It was a nice synergy for us," Starling continued.

Steve Herbert of KCRW(FM) in Santa Monica, Calif., said of the NAB convention, "Overall, I have been very satisfied with it. Generally speaking they bring in good people, and they are relevant especially in light of HD Radio. I think that they are doing a good job of it. It seems to flow pretty

Comment on this or any article to radioworld@imaspub.com.

### **COOL STUFF 2006 AWARD WINNER**

**Product:** LSR4300 Series Studio Monitors Company: JBL Professional

'Part monitor, part room analyzer with calibration mic, a system that auto-adjusts the monitors

to the space," the judges said. "It's a no-brainer." JBL says it was thinking broadcast when it came up with a speaker that features an on-board analyzer to measure and automatically correct response to compensate for room acoustics and

give greater accuracy at the mix position. This isn't for everyone in radio, of course; but good production facilities and high-end studios will take note.

Digital and analog inputs allow connection to a range of sources. Harman HiQnet network protocol enables simplified configuration of surround-sound systems. The LSR4328P and LSR4326P have 8- and 6-inch woofers, respectively, 1-inch silk dome tweeters and internal bi-amplification with 220 watts.

Design: JBL staff

Price: \$1,399-\$1,699/pair for 6- and 8-inch models; \$1,100 for subwoofer

Info: (800) 8JBLPRO or www.jblpro.com/lsr



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# Stuck in the Middle With UGC

Broadcasters Are in Unfamiliar Territory When Their Podcasts Compete With User-Generated Content

#### by Skip Pizzi

The ongoing evolution of the Internet has engendered a democratization of audio distribution that continues to expand. What started with a few webcasters doing streaming radio has now grown to a major market-place of user-generated content (yes, now it's even got an acronym, "UGC") via the medium of podcasting.

Yet, as this column has frequently remarked, nothing stops broadcasters from themselves partaking in this expanding universe with their own offerings, and promoting the existence of these new services to their "legacy" audiences over the air. This produces an interesting market dynamic, still emerging, where large corporate purveyors of audio services are competing for ear time with small independent operators and even private individuals. This is sort of analogous to a shopping mall where big anchor stores compete with small boutiques and vendors on carts,

Just as quality control is often erratic in such a shopping environment, so, too, is compliance with relevant laws and reg-

kiosks and blankets on the sidewalk.

ulations in the Internet audio world. The odd juxtaposition of broadcasters' content against UCG in many podcasting venues illustrates this divergence.

Time was when broadcasters only competed with other broadcasters, so the



# PODCASTING LEGAL GUIDE: RULES FOR THE REVOLUTION

Colette Vogele, Esq.
Vogele & Associates
tenford Center for Internet and Society

Mia Garlick
Creative Commons
aniont Center for Internet and Societ

The Berkman Center Clinical Program in Cyberlaw Hervard Law School

rules were relatively stable and a level playing field was maintained. It was understood that if someone tread outside the commonly accepted boundaries, they'd be quickly called on it — it was broadcasting, after all, so there weren't any secrets about what you were doing — and the stakes were high.

Now, however, it's possible to find a wide range of compliance regimes, gener-

ally set and enforced by a site's host, making it difficult to compete fairly. Broadcasters aren't used to this kind of moving target, and also are pretty risk-

averse, so this environment is not perceived as a very friendly one.

The site hosts don't like it much either, since they have to set many of their own rules and then manually monitor each posting individually for compliance, a labor-intensive exercise.

Nevertheless, the popularity and growth rates of these sites have kept them a hot property for the online services industry, and thus it is important for broadcasters to keep a presence in this space, while monitoring activity for the emergence of any new trends, which will likely continue for some time (if not permanently).

#### Breaking the code

Podcasts are a great example of the need for copyright law reform.

Even though the law continuously has been made more granular and complex in an attempt to keep up with new media forms — and is now an almost incomprehensible morass of

patched-up rules — podcasts defy categorization. They seem to fall directly into a gray area of existing regulations.

Nevertheless, unless and until such reform takes place, all podcasters, and particularly broadcasters, need to follow the existing rules if they wish to avoid legal troubles. Interestingly, the most daunting rules and highest risks involved with podcasting today are not associated with indecency, but with music licensing. (Each UCG posting site has its own rules about adult content — many don't allow it — but these are based mostly on business considerations, not legal ones.)

Usage of published music content (or TV and movies) online, on the other hand, is an area fraught with controversy, with much current activity in the arenas of regulation, legislation and litigation (a three-ring legal circus, some might say). Thus, while the industry waits for wholesale copyright law revision, what's legal for podcasting of music is continually affected by piecemeal changes in rules, statutes and case law.

That's why many have welcomed the recent publication of a comprehensive set of guidelines for podcasters called "The Podcasting Legal Guide, v 1.0." Although it opens with the requisite caveat against taking its words as legal advice (also repeated as a footer on each of its 30+ pages), it bears a lineage of the highest legal pedigree. Its authors are Colette Vogele, a fellow at Stanford University's Center for Internet and Society; Mia Garlick, general counsel for Creative Commons; and collectively, Harvard Law School's Berkman Center for Internet and Society, specifically its Clinical Program in Cyberlaw.

The guide includes a foreword by

#### **The Big Picture**



by Skip Pizzi

Lawrence Lessig, arguably the Johnny Cochrane of digital law, who spends most of his space railing against the current state of copyright law, but meanwhile recommending the guide. He also manages to get a plug in for his Creative Commons organization, and after perusing the guide, the reader likely will be persuaded that any effort toward simplification of the process, as CC attempts, is laudable.

The publication addresses legal issues in both the content and the distribution of podcasts, and although it is clearly written with the legal layperson ("amateur" podcaster) in mind, it applies broadly and equally well to "professional" (e.g., broadcasters') podcasts. It also includes a brief history and technical explanation of podcasting, and provides a rich set of additional resources.

#### For broadcasters

who are trying their hand at podcasting, or those considering it, this guide is worthwhile reading.

The guide's most useful information for broadcasters is probably its coverage of music rights in an up-to-the-minute treatment of substantial depth, as well as its clarification of what might constitute "fair use" — an often misapplied term.

Considering the subject matter, the guide is surprisingly readable and refreshingly free of legalese. Its frequent use of examples and scenarios helps illustrate the issues in real-world ways for broadcasters.

For broadcasters who are trying their hand at podcasting, or those considering it, this guide is worthwhile reading. If nothing else, it provides a good briefing on just how different from traditional broadcasting the world of podcasting and UCG is — and yet how much it is the same.

The guide is available at http://wiki.creativecommons.org/Podcasting\_Legal\_Guide.

Skip Pizzi is contributing editor of Radio World. Comment on this or any article to radioworld@imaspub.com.



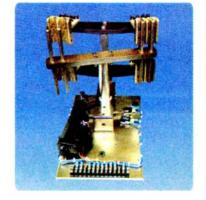
**COOL STUFF 2006 AWARD WINNER** 



**Product:** High-Power RF Contactors **Company:** Kintronic Laboratories Inc.

Founded in the 1940s by Louis A. King, Kintronic began manufacturing in 1952. Fifty-four years after that, the company is still cranking out dependable, specialized broadcast gear.

At NAB it debuted three RF Linear Drive Contactors for high-power AM/MW applications. The RFC-150L-55 is capable of handling 150 amps at 55 kv and is available in a single-pole single-throw or SPDT configuration. The RFC-200L-30 is capable of handling 200 amps at 30 kv and available in a SPDT or DPDT configuration. The RFC-200L-80 is capable of handling 200 amps at

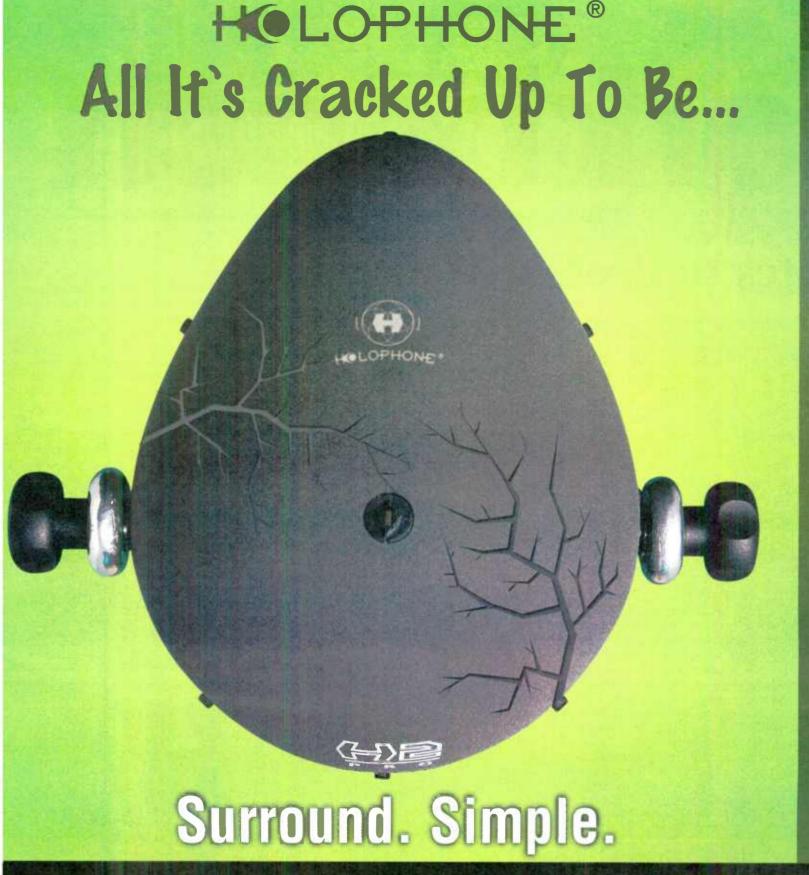


80 kv and is available SPST or SPDT. Each of these models switches in less than one second with no shock or vibration. They use an operational 110-240 VAC voltage and have dry closures for position sensing and an actuator driver board with contactor position selector switches. Now shipping.

Design: Kintronic electrical and mechanical engineering departments

Price: Varies by configuration

Info: (423) 878-3141 or www.kintronic.com



Partial User List / Captured by Holophone

"Since it's introduction last year, The Holophone H2-PRO Surround Sound Microphone has captured more High-Profile events, in more countries, than any other Surround Sound Microphone on the Planet. Holophone Products make it Really Simple to create Ultra-realistic 5.1, 6.1 or 7.1 Channel Broadcasts or Recordings. To capture multi-channel sound for HDTV, films and Music, using a Holophone instead of a multiple-microphone array will save you time, money and a major Pain in the Butt! In repeated 3-D audio testing, the Holophone sonically beat up on the competition time and time again. The Holophone H2-PRO sounds like no other microphone in the Whole-Wide-World. We guarantee it ..."

"Holophone provides the most accurate and comprehensive capture of the ambiance of a crowded concert hall. The best word I would use to describe the H2-PRO is persuasive. I've struggled with spaced pairs for surround in post production; it's very difficult to make them work in a convincing manner. Holophone has solved that problem for us. It is always persuasive; it always puts you right there."

Hank Neuberger, Third Wave Productions, USA

Check our web site for updates on our two New products; The Holophone H3-D; a cost effective 5.1 channel professional Surround Microphone, and the much-anticipated (and very cool!) Camera-mountable, Holophone H-4 SuperMINI

Award Winning Products













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# Take Notes to Protect Yourself

#### by John Bisset

Good weather usually brings not only remotes but construction projects. Here are a few tips from West Virginia Radio Corp. Vice President of Engineering Noel Richardson. He and his staff have built and refurbished a number of facilities and he'll be the first to tell you that whatever can go wrong will.

With that in mind, his first suggestion is to give yourself plenty of time. Too often engineers want to over-promise, then we under-deliver and pay the consequences. Yes, management is depending on us; but basking in the glory of a shortsighted delivery date will mean you'll be under the magnifying glass when that date is not met. It's not worth the stress and aggravation.

If the project will take three weeks, don't promise that it can be done in two. Add an extra week as a cushion. This time will be absorbed by contractor delays, which always occur.

It's not at all uncommon to begin planning for a major studio move a year or more in advance.

Not sure how long the project will take? Meet with some contractors and get some opinions. They're usually congregated at a local 7-Eleven getting coffee in the early morning. Go talk to them. They may tell you that permits in your region are impossible to get quickly or that the good weather has them backlogged through summer.

Noel's point is to get into "fact-finding" mode and gather as much information as possible.

Good architects who have done broadcast work should be able to provide realistic time estimates; but be conservative in any event. Even if your project is to get the transmitter building roof replaced or a parking lot re-sealed, remember that your timeframe may not line up with the contractor's.

Noel can't stress enough the need to plan. Review your plans and have engineering friends look them over. The object is to spot problems. What are you forgetting? What's not going to work? There's always something.

Planning also can be the difference between a nicely designed plant and one thrown together helter-skelter. Designate your cable and electrical runs for a neat installation. If it's a transmitter building, keep in mind future additional capacity required for HD Radio. Also, when laying out your room, plan for both transmitter and rack door swing - something that's easily forgotten, and not always on the transmitter layout drawing.

Thanks, Noel, for providing some good project management ideas. Noel Richardson can be reached at nrichardson@wvradio.com.

\* \* \*

Paul Sagi has engineered a number of stations in the Far East. He comments from Kuala Lumpur on our transmitter breaker discussion (March 29).

Breaker specifications, he notes, usually give trip times for various levels of current, 100 percent, 110 percent and so forth. These ratings sometimes are shown in an overload time-current graph. See if you can get a specification sheet for the breakers used at your site.

Paul brings this up because if you've experienced phantom breaker trips, don't forget the temperature de-rating of the breaker. When the breaker is installed and doing its job, it's in a panel that may have various heat sources, possibly from other wiring or breakers. A thermometer is useful to check the breaker box temperature. Several DVMs have inexpensive temperature probe accessories, and the price of stand-alone probes has dropped dramatically. Visit your Home Depot to see what's available.

Also check the connections of the wires to the breaker, to ensure they are clean and tight. Oxidized or loose connections will cause heating that will derate the tripping point of the breaker. Most often, the breakers are tripped

See DIARY, page 37



Fig. 1: Designate cable and electrical runs.



# Bigger, Bolder, Brighter!

THIRD-GENERATION "DAVID" PROCESSING... SMOOTH AND EXCEPTIONALLY COMPETITIVE!



Improved AGC, 3-band Spectral Loading™ processing, and our proprietary PIPP™ limiter... new features we've merged with the 'elegant simplicity' that characterizes the "DAVID" FM-airchain legacy. The result is performance that rivals processing systems costing several times the DAVID-III's modest price. Your listeners will hear music with dynamics and 'punch,' and live-announce that's natural and non-abrasive.

The DAVID-III is easy to set up and easy to use. It employs quasi-digital PWM processing circuitry, digital synthesis of the FM baseband signal, and it never requires routine calibration. Component parts are common and available worldwide.

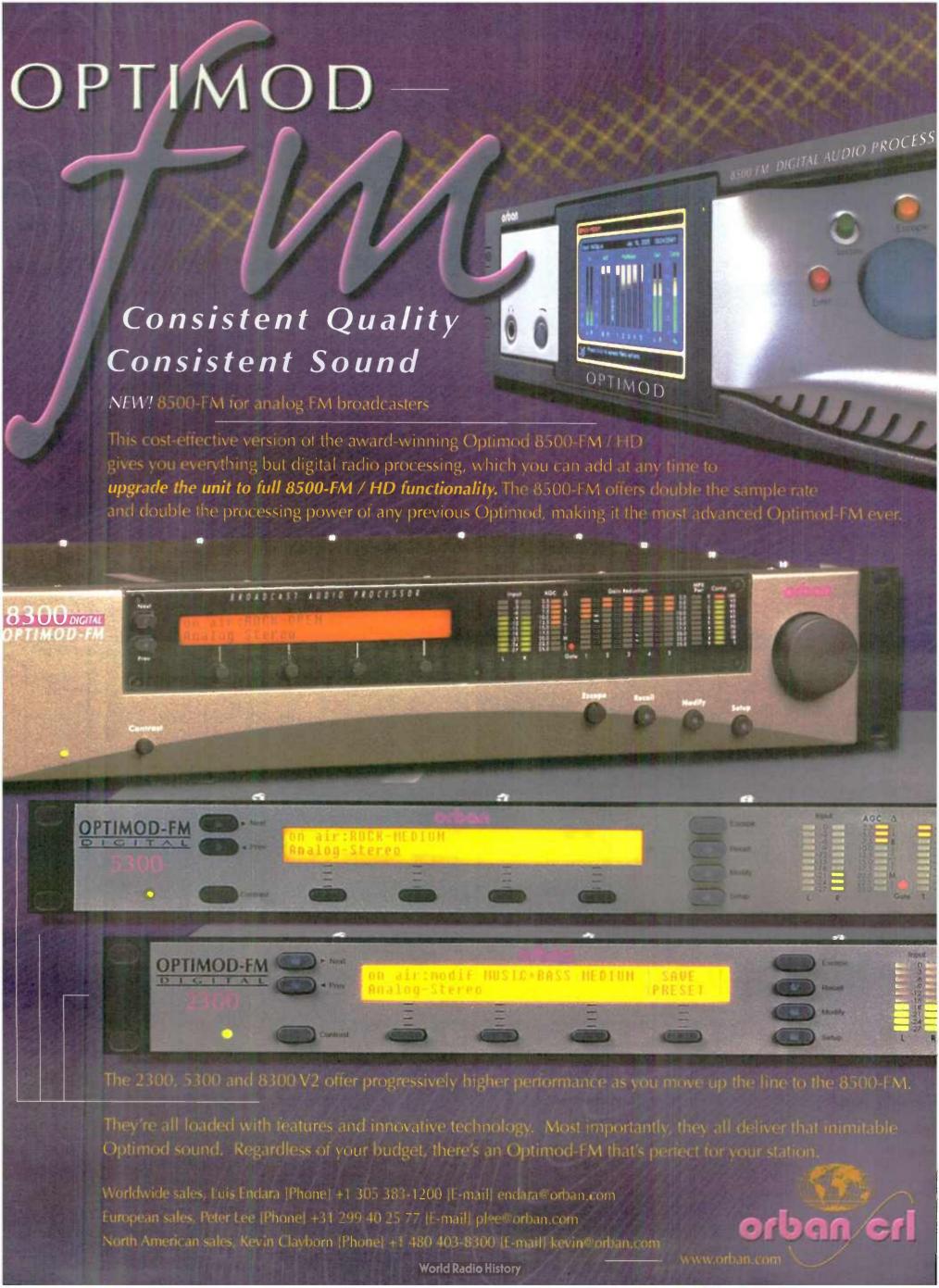
> Ask your preferred distributor for a demonstration of the DAVID-III at your station.



DAVID-III - \$2200

Visit www.inovon.com for full technical details

Fig. 2: An exhaust fan helps you keep your cool at the transmitter shack.



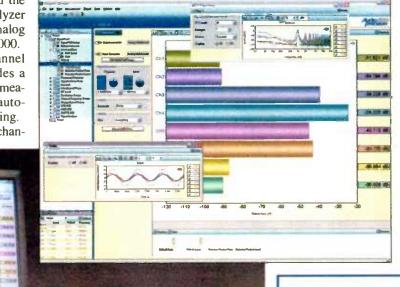
#### MARKET PLACE

#### Audio Precision Has Eight-Channel Audio Analyzer

Audio Precision in May introduced the APx585, calling it the first audio analyzer with eight simultaneous channels of analog I/O. It ships in July and retails for \$21,000.

This system is aimed at multichannel consumer audio products and includes a user interface that allows users to take measurements almost immediately and automate test sequences with no programming.

'Consumer audio moved to multichan-



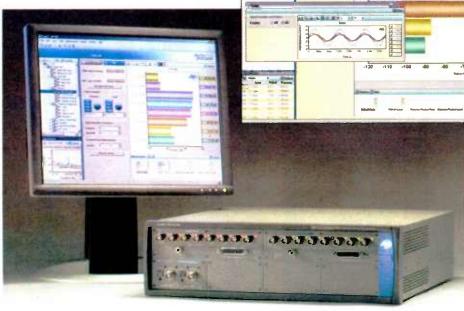
nel systems years ago, and test and measurement has now caught up," said Bruce Hofer, co-founder and chairman of the company. He said the market also has expanded "from audio experts, to engineers who have little formal audio training." Target markets include PCs and portable media players.

A measurement Navigator presents a set of measurements that can be made by selecting with a checkbox, then clicking Run. Test sequences can be defined by selecting multiple tests, then clicking the Navigator's Run button. Automating test sequences eliminates the need for programming.

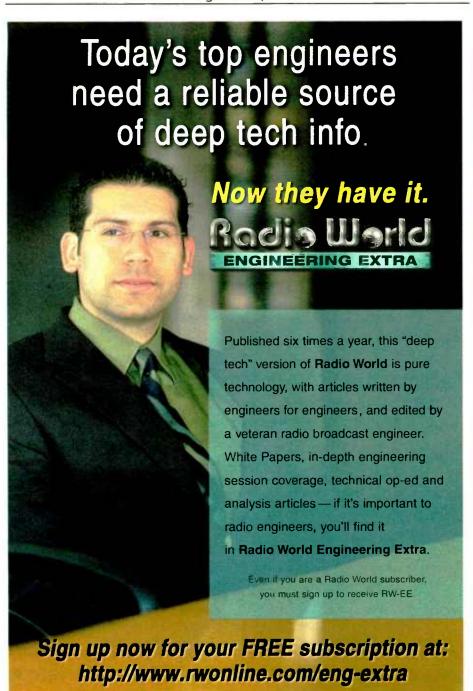
Test sequences are supported with an integrated reporting facility that generates graphic reports on individual test settings and results. Reports are exportable and can be customized with a company's name and logo.

The system also uses a new, patent-pending sweep method called "continuous sweep" that AP says is faster than previous methods and can make multiple measurements at once.

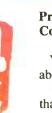
For information visit www.ap.com.



View shows an eight-channel THD+N measurement on the colored meter bars, with pull-off signal monitors providing Scope and FFT views. Measurement Navigator/Sequencer is at the left.



#### **COOL STUFF 2006 AWARD WINNER**



Product: FM411 Company: Mother USA Inc.

You can tell your listeners when you're about to play songs they want to hear.

FM411 is a service, free to listeners, that sends a Live Alert that their favorite artist or song is about to play in a few minutes. Listeners sign up on the station Web site and pick their favorite artists and songs from your playlist. A Live

Alert is sent to their e-mail address or cell phone. The goal is to drive audience to the station, always a good thing; and you can sell ad content within the alerts for

The system operates via software installed on the PC tied to your audio management system, like the BE Audio Vault. FM411 was on display in BE's booth at NAB.

Designer: Jeffrey Levy, Brian Schoenbeck, Frank Cincotta

Price: Provided to stations on barter.

Info: (508) 655-4567 or www.getfm411.com

## **COOL STUFF 2006 AWARD WINNER**



Product: Optimod-AM 9400 Company: Orban/CRL

"One slick package," a judge wrote. "After the common AGC, you get separate multi-band processing and limiting all the way out each output."

You don't need to buy two boxes to get independent multiband processing for your analog AM and AM HD Radio chains. This unit offers two independently adjustable processing chains: one for the analog channel and one for the digital.

The only processing common to the channels is the AGC and stereo enhancer; beyond the front-end processing, you get two equalizers, five-band compressor/limiters and peak limiters, each optimized for its intended transmission channel. The processing is based on the 8400's code, so its AM-channel signal processing is more advanced than that of the 9200. Notable changes, according to Bob Orban, are two-band window-gated AGC, "intelligent" clipping distortion control and anti-aliased clippers. Also the 9400's AM signal processing path is stereo, whereas the 9200 is mono.

Now shipping. Shown: Jay Brentlinger processes news of the award.

Designer: Bob Orban

Info: (480) 403-8300 or www.orban.com

# Diary

Continued from page 34 thermally, although some are tripped

magnetically.

If your transmitter site has cooling problems during the summer months, adequate ventilation should be explored before the breakers - and other equipment - shut down due to the heat. A thermostatically controlled exhaust fan, as shown in Fig. 2, represents money well spent.

Paul also writes that the time has come for engineers to protect themselves. He does this with an appointment diary.

Here's an example of how it's used to keep you safe. Paul's station complex had its largest (and most expensive, at a million bucks) recording studio go down at night from a UPS failure. A technician, on his own initiative, bypassed the UPS

The habit of taking notes is a great self-preservation move. I worked with an engineer who kept track of his daily work hours. Months later, a former employee went to the state employment commission about lack of overtime being paid. It turned out that a number of employees were due overtime. According to the state's requirements, this engineer was not "exempt" from overtime and was due a healthy back paycheck, documented by his daily work diary.

Paul wrapped up his letter with a great link if you're maintaining vintage equipment: reel-to-reels, cassette decks or VCRs. Paul has ordered rubber and cloth belts, idlers and pinch rollers from the folks at Russell Industries. This is worth bookmarking, as they are a good source for spare parts for this type of equipment. Go to www.russellind.com and click on PRB line (which stands for Projector-Recorder Belt Corp.).

The company also sells hook and loop fasteners, with both buckle and screwdown options. These straps are



Fig. 3: Velcro brand or other reusable 'hook and loop' straps keep cables secure.

to bring the studio back into service.

Paul dealt with the UPS from the moment he arrived the following morning. He diagnosed that the control circuitry was faulty. The UPS was an older model, and no parts were available. The unit had to be replaced.

After passing a quote onto management, they decided they were not going to spend the money for a new UPS, saying failure was rare and the studio was OK without the UPS. Paul saw this as pennywise and pound-foolish, and made management aware of what systems were powered by that UPS. Their decision stood, the UPS was not replaced. Months later, there was another power surge and the studio was down, long term. Companies wanting to record ads were being turned away, and the station was losing money. High-level management wanted to know what had happened.

The level of management that had refused to buy a new UPS tried to pin the blame on Paul, as though he had not been diligent in doing his job.

Paul had recorded his earlier meeting with management in his appointment diary. He was able to show the date and time of the meeting and who had said what, including the refusal to buy a new UPS.

great for securing remote cables, as used by Bob Drazba at WILK(AM) in Wilkes-Barre, Pa., and seen in Fig. 3. The hook and loop (Velcro brand) securing method means the straps can be reused over and over.

\* \* \*

Nick Markowitz, a contract engineer for WAVL(AM) in Apollo, Pa., and owner of Markowitz Electric Protection, a private industry fire investigation company, has stated a newsgroup with associate Al Columbo. Here you'll find discussion of a variety of fire subjects, many of which may pertain to broadcast engineers. Visit www.tpromo.com/firenetonline. The site has interesting articles, including one by Columbo on how often to replace gel cell batteries. They don't last forever, folks!

John Bisset has worked as a chief engineer and contract engineer for 37 years. He is the northeast regional sales manager for Broadcast Electronics. Reach him at (571) 217-9386, or jbisset@bdcast.com. Faxed submissions can be sent to (603) 472-4944. Submissions for this column are encouraged, and qualify for SBE recertification credit.

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> > FlashMic is all you need for broadcast-quality recording.

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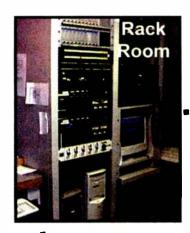




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www.SCMSinc.com

Page 41

growing business unit. The format was on 17 Salem stations in 2003, half the

Radio World

Resource for Business, Programming & Sales

June 21, 2006

# Salem Takes Talk Into Blogosphere

by Jim McLain

This article appeared in the Ventura County Star and is reprinted with permis-

Are blogs and the Internet going to be the new talk radio?

Salem Communications Corp. thinks so, and it just put up \$5 million to make it happen.

The Camarillo, Calif., company, owner of 104 radio stations, a host of Web sites and magazines and three radio syndication networks with nearly 2,000 affiliates, targets people interested in religion and politics. And it closed a deal in May to take its fastest-growing radio format conservative news/talk - into the blogosphere.

Salem bought Townhall.com, one of the country's largest and oldest conservative news and opinion Web sites, and will relaunch it soon as a next-generation platform for people with something to say. It also will provide a more visible stage for the company's talk show hosts.

One executive predicted the site will be a forerunner of a new "grassroots media," with a potential impact rivaling that of nationally syndicated talk radio's dawn in the late 1980s.

"We forget, now that it's been 20 years, how revolutionary it was that an average person could pick up the phone, call a talk radio show and have their voices broadcast to millions of folks," said Chuck DeFeo, Townhall.com's new general manager.

"There wasn't a platform like that for people, ever. ... This is where the grassroots media of talk radio and blogging can intersect."

#### Money maker

Salem reported total broadcast revenues last year of \$201 million, up 7.9 percent from \$186.3 million in 2004. Its 2005 net income was \$12.7 million, up 72.7 percent from \$7.3 million the previous year. Founded in the mid-1970s by Edward G. Atsinger III of Camarillo, who remains its president and CEO, the company has 1,530 employees, including about 120 in Ventura County.

Its radio portfolio includes 66 stations in 24 of the country's 25 largest markets. Most broadcast one of its three primary formats: Religious "teaching and talk." Christian contemporary music and conservative news/talk

KDAR(FM) (98.3) in Oxnard, which airs the religion format, was Salem's first station. It is the company's only radio property in Ventura County.

The Townhall.com Web site, based in Washington, D.C., was launched in 1995 by the Heritage Foundation, a conservative think tank. It features content from more than 115 member groups and commentary from scores of well-known writers and talk show hosts, most backed up with at least a decade's worth of archives.

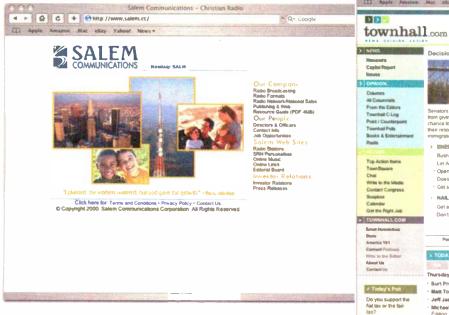
The site has 1.2 million unique visitors and 12 million page views each month,

"The acquisition ... provides a highly effective means to promote across a multimedia platform," Atsinger said in a prepared statement.

number carrying it today. It's heard in eight of the country's top 10 markets, 20 of the top 25. Locally, the format airs on KRLA(AM) (870) in Los Angeles.

In an earnings conference call with

Pull Down For Passer



according to NielsenNetRatings, which measures online activity.

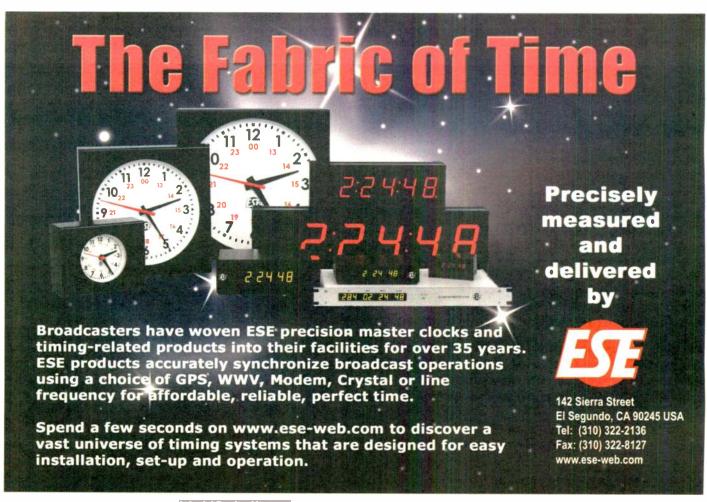
Salem wants to integrate its content on Townhall.com with what's being discussed on its nationally syndicated talk shows and rapidly growing chain of 34 conservative news/talk stations, Atsinger said. Targeting the same audience on the air and online is a strategy that has served the company's 44 religious stations well.

"We see an opportunity to significantly grow the Townhall.com

brand, while broadening the exposure and popularity of our news/talk radio hosts and radio stations '

Salem launched its conservative news/talk station group in 2002. For two years, it's been the company's fastestinvestment analysts transcribed by Seeking Alpha.com earlier this month, Atsinger said news/talk stations raked in 15 percent of Salem's first-quarter broadcast revenue, up 15 percent from the See SALEM, page 40





# Salem

Continued from page 39 same period in 2004, when the format generated \$29 million.

#### **Internet strategy**

When it relaunches Townhall.com in mid-June or early July, Salem hopes to boost news/talk revenue and ratings by prominently featuring its syndicated talk show hosts on the site. Their photos, blogs, columns and podcasts will be the first thing visitors see, though links to dozens of other conservative commentators - including Rush Limbaugh, Sean Hannity and Bill O'Reilly - will still be there.

Visitors entering their Zip codes will see a list of nearby Salem stations and network affiliates, along with e-mail links to their congressional representatives and be invited to blog on any issue.

"There's going to be so much crosspollination between our owned radio stations, our network programming, the existing Townhall writers and bloggers, it really is an exciting prospect," said Tom Tradup, Salem Radio Network's vice president for news and talk programming. "It's an opportunity to do something that takes us to the next level

... it gives us the chance to key into the core of any talk radio audience, people who are active in the political system.'

#### The talent

Salem's broadcasters include longtime Los Angeles personality Dennis Prager, authors Mike Gallagher, Hugh Hewitt, Michael Medved and Bill Bennett, who also served as Ronald Reagan's education secretary, George H.W. Bush's drug czar and chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

"We like to bill him as the only talk show host in America ever confirmed three times by the Senate," Tradup said. "All of these hosts ... have a sort of multidimensional, multimedia image to them.

"They're all people who have a life outside of radio as opposed to being radio personalities. I think that's why they're so interesting and why they've stood the test of time.

Bennett launched his daily "Morning in America" broadcast in 2004 on 30 stations, most Salem-owned. Today, the show is on 152 stations, most not owned by the company. Gallagher is heard on 173 stations, Medved on 177 and Prager on 109.

Salem spent about six months building a Web site for its conservative commentators that was to be called

Beyondthenews.com. General Manager DeFeo said the company was weeks away from launching it when it learned early this year that Townhall.com was for sale.

Now, Salem is retooling much of what it planned for Beyondthenews.com for use on Townhall.com, being careful not to alienate Townhall's many longtime visitors by changing too much.

DeFeo declined to say what the company is spending, but he thinks most people will like the revised Web site.

505,000 listeners in the same demographic.

June 21, 2006

KRLA could probably do a little better, one expert said, by airing some nonpolitical programs, but Salem seems to be aiming for a niche audience.

"I would imagine their audience is a very white, very conservative, very religious group of listeners just by the lineup of the people they have on the air," said Don Barrett, editor of LARadio.com, a Web site that covers the Southern California radio industry.

#### There's going to be so much cross-pollination

between our owned radio stations, our network programming, the existing Townhall writers and bloggers, it really is an exciting prospect.

— Tom Tradup

"I can tell you that what will be coming out in six to eight weeks will be significant. I think there's nothing else like it in the conservative space on the Web," he said. "I don't think there's anything that's going to combine the grassroots media of talk radio, the blogosphere and the Internet together like this any place else."

#### **Making connections**

Townhall.com will feature links to the Web sites of all Salem's news/talk stations, and company officials hope many online visitors unfamiliar with the stations will tune in.

The format is fairly new in most cities. While it is making money and attracts intensely loval listeners, audiences for most are small. In the winter ratings, Los Angeles' KRLA ranked 32nd with listeners aged 25 to 54, with 134,000 listeners weekly, according to Arbitron Inc., the radio ratings service.

By comparison, mainstream talk station KFI(AM) (640) attracts more than

"They don't let up ... When you are so limited in your approach, it's really difficult to get a wide base of listeners. I'm just not sure they even want to be

#### Reaching the target audience

Tyler Cox, national program director for the company's news/talk stations, said the format is aimed at a mostly male audience aged 35 to 64. While ratings for many of the stations are low, audiences for all of them are growing incrementally, he said.

In the Denver, Minneapolis-St. Paul, Louisville and Cleveland markets, the relatively new format is doing better than Salem expected.

When you start developing this platform, you know you're coming in as the new kid on the block, and we know it's going to take time for growth," said Cox, who is based in Dallas. "We have very realistic expectations. We expect growth ... but the key thing for us at this juncture is that growth is occurring year-to-year."

## STATION/STUDIO SERVICES

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#### **COOL STUFF 2006 AWARD WINNER**





**Product:** Blue Wireless Company: Ricsonix

An Australia-based company, Ricsonix, has this lightweight digital radio microphone. The device is aimed at video, film and stage, but our judges found it cool for uses anywhere you might want to do away with audio

This is a Bluetooth-style device that uses spread spectrum and delivers CD-quality audio with no compression. It is about a third the weight and size of conventional studio mics. The receiver is the XLR plug with an

antenna. Available as a full AES digital out or straight analog; it will plug into any pro recorder. "No more butt packs for wireless body mics," says a judge who has worked with plenty.

Ships in July. Photo: Ric Creaser mans the booth.

Info: (323) 876-7525 (Grace Distribution) or www.ricsonix.com

#### Hanley's Three Rules

The following are excerpts of remarks by Carol Hanley, senior vice president of sales, U.S. media for Arbitron. She spoke at the RAB Radio Forum in March about "new rules for

Arbitron [has] announced that after 15 years — and 10 generations of technological refinement - we are actively deploying the Portable People Meter as the new currency for radio measurement in the top 50 markets ...

In the last year the radio industry has implemented more innovations than I think I can ever remember. Clutter reductions, new formats like Reggatone and JACK, the introduction of HD Radio and the adoption of EDI making the process of buying and selling more efficient. ...

I believe there are three key themes - or rules — that are consistently emerging in radio today.

Rule 1: Radio will no longer lag behind other media on accountability. The shift into electronic measurement will provide radio with more timely, robust and actionable data. That will translate into more money for the entire radio industry. PPM measurement will enable us to better determine the impact of advertising investments and assess we are addressing our clients' full objectives.

More importantly, electronic measurement will provide programmers with compelling new insights to enhance radio-programming content. That all translates into more customer - which translates into revenue

In addition, we are moving into a world of commercial encoding — a demonstration of not just who is exposed to content on a radio station or distribution channel, but who was exposed to the actual commercial execution. Radio has an opportunity to lead other media in this highly accountable measurement metric.

Rule 2: Advertisers who never looked at the medium will now begin to consider it. I met three weeks ago with an auditing company that works for over 165 major advertisers. An auditing company verifies for an advertiser that the agency is, in fact, doing exactly what they claim to be doing with their advertising dollars.

The CEO of the company told me that of the 165 audits a year that they do, only three advertisers are in radio. Why? Because in his world of econometric modeling, radio is not perceived as an accountable medium. PPM commercial encoding - and project Apollo have the potential to change all of that and welcome new advertisers and budgets into radio.

Rule 3: Radio will no longer be thought of as just a frequency medium. Radio will now also be seen as a branding and reach medium. PPM tests in both Houston and Philadelphia revealed that the average station's cume doubles that of the diary. In some cases, we see the market cluster now reaching what the local TV station does.

This is a major branding story for radio. I cannot tell you how many meetings I have been in during the past year where an agency told me that some random percent of their radio budget is moving to the Internet. Why? For example, I heard "because there is the belief that when a consumer wants to purchase a car — it is the Internet that they turn to."

How does a consumer get to the point that they are looking up pricing on the Internet for that Ford Truck? Branding. Radio must reposition itself as a media capable of largescale branding. That is what a "reach" medium does.

Radio is changing, it's alive and it's ready to acknowledge that a single thought development and shift can and will revolutionize how the media is bought and sold. Arbitron and PPM are looking forward to being a part of that change.

## **COOL STUFF 2006 AWARD WINNER**

Product: 2900 Series Low-Power FM Notch and Bandpass Filters Company: Shively Labs, Division of Howell Laboratories Inc.

The Model 2900 low-power filter series targets the complex broadcasting environments in which low-power transmitters are used these days. They can be configured for notch and bandpass use, group delay equalization, spectral regrowth suppression and use in low-power branched and balanced combiners. Their small size makes them suitable for crowded broadcast facilities.

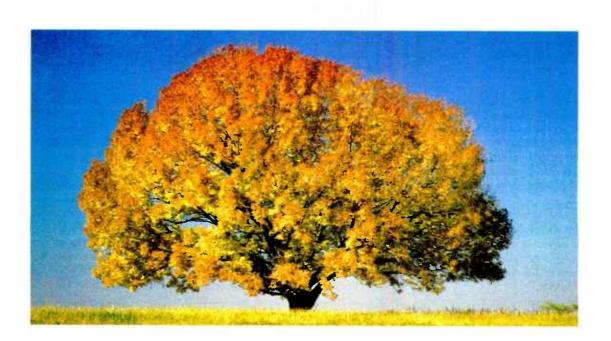
Shipping now. Photo: Bob Surette, Joe Rohrer and Sean Edwards

Design: Shively new products design group

Price: Varies by configuration

Info: (888) SHIVELY or www.shively.com





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# The Art of the Live Radio Spot

A Great Live Spot Is Conversational: Hiccups, Hesitations and No Stentorian Tones

#### by Tom Fitzmorris

The most powerful kind of radio advertising is the ad-lib live spot. If you doubt it, it's because you're reading these words instead of hearing me make them up as I speak them.

The live commercial is the original form of radio advertising. That was by necessity, of course. Everything was live in the beginning. Recorded spots became common in the 1930s, but the live commercial remained the standard of the industry, on both local and network radio, well into the 1950s. As late as the early 1970s, you'd still hear live commercials even on ABC and CBS network newscasts, delivered by special announcers brought in for the purpose.

The practice never went away, particularly on talk radio, which lends itself well to live commercials. But live and ad-lib spots work in any format.

#### Just talk

The live spot gets its power because it plugs into the essence of radio. It's one person talking to another, personally. Ask any client who uses live radio commercials about their effectiveness. There's no question about it. They're worth the extra cost and trouble.

Unfortunately, few practices make radio managers as uncomfortable as the idea of letting an on-air person cut loose with a live script, let alone with copy points from which he can make up the spot from whole cloth.

This is understandable. Back in the old days, everything in radio was scripted. Even interviews. It seems absurd now, but radio stations worried so much about what could be allowed to air that they insisted on knowing every word that would be uttered, in advance.

Then along came Arthur Godfrey. At the time, he was a standard big-voice, perfect-enunciation local announcer in Washington. An automobile accident put him in the hospital, where he listened to a lot of radio. It occurred to him that announcers sounded as if they were talking not to another person, but to a microphone. And that this was obviously wrong.

When he returned to the air, he ditched the diction and started speaking like a normal person — perhaps even exaggerating that a touch. Instead of reading his scripts, he talked about what the scripts said. Sometimes he stopped dead in his tracks and questioned what he read from them, even poking fun at the sponsor at

Management and other announcers at the station thought Godfrey had lost his mind. But before they could do anything about it, the surge of popularity among both listeners and sponsors made it clear that Godfrey was onto something. Within months, advertisers were on a waiting list to buy time on Godfrey's show.

#### Informed friend

There was a good reason for this. Godfrey's spots didn't sound like commercials. They sounded like the words of a well-informed friend, and people believed them as such. Scripted spots, in contrast, came across as disembodied advice from ... who knows who?

The effectiveness of the ad-lib spot was so pronounced that it spread throughout all of radio. On the networks, it took the form of scripts written to sound as if they were ad-lib, but the idea was the same. To this day, every show that develops a reputation for doing live commercials always has a high demand for them. The most famous current example is Paul Harvey.

So why isn't the form nearly as widespread today? One word: convenience. It's easy for the traffic department to

enter a produced, numbered spot into the Dalet or Prophet system. Then everybody can just about forget about it. The spot will run even if nobody's at the station, during automated hours.

But a live spot requires a few inconvenient elements. The first is, obviously, a live announcer — the elimination of whom is a continuing process in our industry. Syndicated programming makes live commercials difficult.

And for really great live spots, you need a personality, someone who not only is well known as a trustworthy human being by his or her listeners, but who has the talent to put the point across in a convincing, entertaining way.

Before the talent goes on the air with a live spot, he needs to know what he's talking about. He should know enough about the advertiser that if he were stopped on the street and asked about it, he could speak about it authoritatively. Too many live spots betray an obvious ignorance of the subject.

It's also important that the talent express some criteria that must be met by a potential client.

Every master of the live commercial from Arthur Godfrey on down made it clear that he wouldn't do commercials for just anybody. Otherwise the enterprise becomes craven. Listeners pick up on the insincerity, and lose their trust of the personality.

Certain kinds of businesses lend them-

#### Few practices make radio managers as uncomfortable as the idea of letting an on-air person cut loose with a live script.

Such people are expensive. However, the demand for good live commercials being what it is, much of the added expense can be insulated from the station's revenue stream by having the talent bill the client for talent fees. A personality adept at live commercials can at least double his income that way.

#### Part of the show

Live commercials have other unique advantages:

- 1. They don't interrupt the show, thereby preventing tune-outs. Ad-lib live spots at their best should be so entertaining that a listener, far from tuning out, actually likes to listen to the spot. Live spots should stand alone, the host moving seamlessly from the program into the commercial and right back into the program. At the very least, the live spot should lead into a recorded spot set.
- 2. They strengthen the bond between air personality and listener. Ask any jock who does a lot of live spots how often listeners mention that they use whatever it is he endorses. When the listener buys the product, he thinks of the radio show. The product becomes a promo for the station!
- 3. The spot is never exactly the same twice. Not only does this eliminate listener burnout, but it allows the spot to turn on a dime to serve the immediate needs of the client. New copy points? Bang! They're on the air immediately, not in line in the production department. This is a tremendously valuable talking point for the sales guys.

Live commercials are not without their downsides.

Not all air talent is adept at them. If all a jock can do is read a script as if he were in the production booth, he needs to work on his skills. A great live spot is conversational. That means unpolished sentences, hiccups, hesitations and complete avoidance of stentorian vocal tones. A collection of imperfections adds up to the perfect live spot.

selves especially well to live and ad-lib commercials. The ones that benefit most are those whose main selling point is enhanced quality.

Restaurants are naturals. Jocks love to eat, and most of them can wax poetic on the excellence of the food they had at Chez Maison de la Casa last night. But any business that says its wares or services are better than most will benefit from artfully performed live radio com-

A common misgiving that both on-air talent and management have about live commercials is that it will hurt the credibility of the host. Interestingly, this almost never happens if the spots are done well. Few of Paul Harvey's millions of listeners are bothered by the fact that he does all the commercials on his newscasts. In my own experience, doing a dozen or more live spots every day for restaurants that I deem worthy of my endorsement for 17 years has had no significant impact on my credibility as a restaurant critic. If anything, I'd say it's

So go out and sell those live spots, and teach your air staff how to do them well. It will deliver better results to your clients, to the benefit of everybody.

Tom Fitzmorris wrote this article while evacuated from Hurricane Katrina. In normal times he's host of "The Food Show," called "America's only threehour daily PM-drive talk show about nothing but eating," on Entercom's WSMB(AM) in New Orleans. He estimates he has done at least 25,000 ad-lib commercials. E-mail him at tom@ nomenu.com.





Product: iProFiler Company: Axia Audio

Axia is fast becoming "the IP guys." This is a multi-channel audio archiving and logging program that works with Axia IP-Audio networks to capture and store 16 stereo audio channels — or 32 in mono — of time-stamped MP3 audio. There are no sound cards to buy or install. It can be used to log programming,

store and forward network audio feeds and make airchecks.

iProFiler uses your computer's Ethernet port to record audio streams directly. Each stream can be recorded in one of three modes: continuous, skim or "SmartSkim," which archives less-vital audio such as music at a low bit rate, then switches to a higher bit rate for the jock's voice. "A brilliantly integrated logging solution," said a judge.

Denny Sanders and Ioan Rus are shown in the booth.

Designer: Ioan Rus

Info: (216) 241-7225 or www.axiaaudio.com

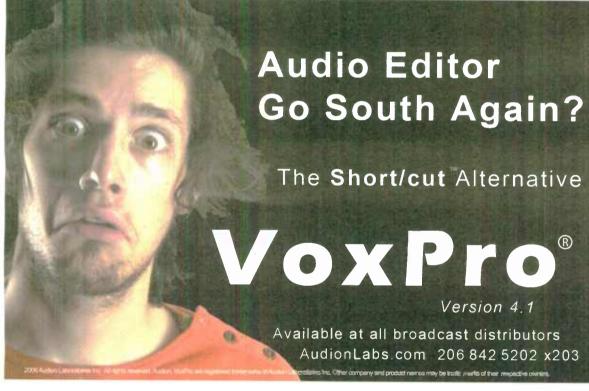
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Send e-mail to radioworld@ imaspub.com with "Letter to the Editor" in the subject field; fax to (703) 820-3245; or mail to Reader's Forum, Radio World, P.O. Box 1214, Falls Church, VA 22041.

# Products & Services SHOWCASE













# Radio Listener: You Are in My Power

The Idea Is to Make The Listener 'Click' Subconsciously and Say, 'Yes, That's Me'

#### by Ken R.

What's the difference between a hypnotist and a good broadcast copywriter? According to programming and advertising consultant Dan O'Day, not much.

"While radio is a mass medium, it is also like the one-to-one relationship between a hypnotherapist and the subject," said O'Day. "Hypnotic advertising incorporates my own insights into radio but also my background in hypnosis and techniques from neuro-linguistic programming."

O'Day, a certified NLP practitioner, admits these methods are not magic.

"There are all sorts of outrageous claims out there about how you will be able to control the mind of the consumer, which is not true," he said. "But NLP and hypnotic techniques can be effective in maximizing the impact of your sales message."

Day discussed the topic of "Hypnotic Advertising" at NAB2006.

#### Right this way

What are these techniques? Three hypnosis concepts useful in advertising are mirroring, pacing and leading.

"An example of mirroring and pacing would be if you are walking in step with someone and then you speed up slightly. Your friend will unconsciously speed up a bit to match you," said O'Day. "In a commercial, you establish the premise in a way that the listener identifies closely with (mirroring). Then you modify things a bit so that the subject will modify his behavior to match what you are telling him (pacing)."

To make this psychological concept more concrete, let's take a spot for pool tables.

"It begins by mirroring and pacing the

experience of millions of men who want to have their own pool table in their own masculine rec room," said O'Day. "Then the commercial leads the listener into making that fantasy come true."

#### **Talking carburetors**

All those TV beer commercials in which an average guy is magically surrounded by attractive women are unrealistic — and, according to O'Day, not that effective.

#### While radio is a mass

medium, it is also like the one-to-one relationship between a hypnotherapist and the subject.

— Dan O'Day

"If you want to make these messages work better, start with the guy in the bar feeling very awkward and afraid to talk to the girls," he said. "That more closely paces the listener's experience."

O'Day has also seen other commercials that may seem clever to the copywriter, but are a bit hard to relate to for the viewer.

"How about a talking carburetor?" said O'Day. "No one is going to say to himself, 'Yeah, I see *that* every day." The idea is to make the listener "click" subconsciously and say, "Yes, that's me."

According to O'Day, the most com-

mon error in radio commercials is selling with facts.

"By now most copywriters have been taught at least to sell benefits instead of features, but even that isn't enough," he said. "You should be selling associations between the brand's results and the targeted consumer."

The second most common mistake?

"Selling an association but the wrong association," said O'Day.

"An example is an actual commercial created by a radio station for a real estate agent. The spot was built around a satisfied homeowner sitting on the porch of his new country home watching insects getting electrocuted by a bug-zapper. The local advertising club gave this spot an

award; but the ad probably didn't generate any new business — because the association created in the mind was that this Realtor will help the listener buy a mosquito-infested property."

O'Day cited another bad spot, this one for a Mexican restaurant promoting fajitas.

"It featured a man and a woman having dinner there and the alleged humor came from the fact that they were passing gas," he said. "Never mind the fact that fajitas are not even made with re-fried beans so that this phenomenon wouldn't occur anyway. The commercial associated that restaurant with intestinal gas."

Further examples of radio commercials, bad and good, can be found at www.danoday.com.

Ken R. is a former radio copywriter who made almost every mistake possible. He says he would like to apologize to all those clients at this time.

# **COOL STUFF 2006 AWARD WINNER**

**Product:** Commander G3
Company: Tieline Technology

Between 1998 and 2001 an Australian company called Audio Video Communications set out to create a global distribution network. Backed by a government development grant, AVC also came up with a family of digital audio codecs, now

familiar by the company's new name, Tieline.

Commander G3 codecs send broadcast audio over networks such as the Internet, including wired IP, Wi-Fi and wireless cellphone broadband links. They also offer traditional network interfaces such as POTS, ISDN and GSM. Each interface is available as a module; you buy what you need now, and add later as needs change — a useful approach in this era of evolving distribution channels.

Shipping now. The company offers free trials through dealers.

Design: Company design team

Price: G3 Field Unit with POTS & IP, \$2,890

Info: (888) 211-6989 or www.tieline.com

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#### Stations Saluted For Their Service

The NAB Education Foundation named winners of its annual Service to America Awards, recognizing outstanding community service by local broadcasters.

Bonneville's WTMX(FM) in Chicago won the Partnership Award for a 36-hour radiothon that has raised \$8.4 million for Children's Memorial Hospital over six years.

KHUM(FM) in Ferndale, Calif., owned by Lost Coast Communications, was honored with the Friend in Need Award for its staff's efforts during and after unexpected storms between Christmas and New Year's Eve including one with 97 mph winds that left three-quarters of the county without power and main highways blocked with fallen trees.

KMSU(FM) at Minnesota State University in Mankato, Minn., earned the College Radio Award. Among its programs is "Human Race Radio," a monthly show on sensitive topics including media bias, the state of religion and community organizations. The station also sponsors a Toys for Tots program and a High School News initiative.

KVAK(AM/FM) in Valdez, Alaska, owned by North Wave Communications, earned the Service to Children Award. The station invites kids into the studio to participate in the "KVAK Kids Club," the goal of which is to engage children in activities aimed at promoting community service. Club members in the 4th through 6th grades record community service announcements that air daily on the stations.

STATION SERVICES

## AirPlay Direct Pushes Digital Delivery

AirPlay Direct said its customers now include Clear Channel, Sirius Radio and Live 365.

It is a Web-based digital delivery system that allows artists and labels to make music available to broadcasters.

"The radio industry has been slow to adopt digital delivery in some regions globally, but that appears to be changing," the company stated. "Recent trends indicate that radio programmers are now aggressively embracing digital delivery."

CEO and Founder Robert Weingartz cited a "big uptrend" toward radio's acceptance and adoption of digital delivery.

Broadcasters can search the service by artist, title, genre or label to find material; they can register to use the site and material is free. The company touts the service to artists as an economical way to distribute music directly to broadcasters.

New members can register with AirPlay Direct, build a personal mini Web site and post three tracks for free. Additional tracks can be uploaded for \$10 each

For information call the company at (678) 318-1900 or visit www.air playdirect.com.

#### **Money for School**

Jefferson-Pilot station WLYF(FM) in Miami partnered with electronics retailer BrandsMart USA to award a \$2,500 college scholarship, desktop computer and \$500 BrandsMart USA gift certificate to Stephanie Maestre, a senior at the School for Advanced Studies.

Maestre plans to study biology and take pre-med courses as an undergraduate. She was selected for the scholarship from among 300 local high school students by a panel that included station representatives, educators and businesspeople.

Jefferson-Pilot's Dennis Collins, left, presents the scholarship check to Maestre. Also shown is Maestre's mother Dalila and station Account Executive Susan LaBarbiera.





# A Prayer for the Future of HD Radio

I was listening to an AM station in HD when a friend came into my office. We spoke for a few minutes and he turned to walk out. Before reaching the door, he said: "Wow! That station really sounds so better much online than over the air."

I explained that I was listening on-air through an HD receiver. He was stunned. This is someone who works in the radio industry and has heard the onair promotion and commercials for HD. He had no knowledge that AM broadcasts in HD.

Ah, the smell of opportunity!

#### The sound

I gotta weigh in with a few thoughts about HD marketing, promotion and

For starters, AM radio stations should not be airing the same promotional announcements or commercials for HD Radio as FMs. The main selling proposition for AM radio is incredibly better sound. For somebody hooked on AM radio talk, sports, news or some niche music format, this is a huge benefit.

Perhaps the industry is waiting until AM HD broadcasting is permitted at night, I don't know; but most listening is occurring during daylight hours, so even that objection is weak. Focus on promoting better AM sound: no fading, no static, no noise during thunderstorms!

Also, when AM stations are doing live broadcasts, they should make sure the live crowd is hearing that specific broadcast in HD sound. On-site signage is needed and a literature on a nearby table would be helpful to sell the product. Can the HD consortium afford listener kiosks in malls, amusement parks and stadiums? Sampling has to start

As for FM, promoting better sound

on HD is a non-starter for most people. The way many are processing HD Radio now, they almost sound like FM stations anyway. While I might buy an HD receiver to improve my AM listening experience, I'm not forking out hundreds of dollars just to hear better FM.

Content is the only thing that's going to bring buyers to the after-market store or Web site to buy the product and then go through the hassle of installation, or at the least the setting up and learning how to use a table radio.

in a mainstream publication, I anticipate the writer is going to slam the industry for repeating the same content daily or even every few hours (because many HD channels don't run daily music logs, they're just hard clocks).

When they don't discover the repetition, I figure that they just really haven't listened very much. However, real listeners will catch on quickly as they hear the same song at the same time every day.

Program directors today are also

#### What's the point in advertising HD Radio

to the masses on AM and FM stations, only to have those who make the leap become adversaries instead of missionaries?

Most broadcasters I speak with are hoping that the big broadcast companies have a fast timetable for investing in and improving the formats of HD Radio

HD formats left up to program directors who are concerned about ratings for their AM and FM stations are at best an afterthought. Many HD Radio stations are brand extensions for their FM sisters and it's easy to understand why. The PD will likely know the music for a brand extension product. The PD may also reason that by using their FM branding in some fashion there's at least a chance a listener may write down that station in a diary for ratings credit.

Each time I read an HD Radio review

amazing risk-adverse. They've been trained not to take chances, or build radically niche formats.

Where will unique HD programming come from? For most HD stations, it will come from their corporations either directly, with the company developing unique formats and then sending them to multiple cities for HD transmission, or with the firm funding more local programmers, who treat their HD stations as real radio stations with daily needs. Either scenario could provide the niche products that HD will need to attract listeners.

Local automation for HD station with nobody paying attention is the worst, but most common, solution.

Station engineers need clear direction

#### **Promo Power**



by Mark Lapidus

about how important it is that HD stations stay on the air. Let the technical staff know that the HD Radio station can't go off the air for hours or days that you value that channel. I also know of some engineers who have HD stations on the air but don't have an HD Radio in their office. I'm not putting the entire blame on engineers; consolidation has cut the labor pool to an all-time low and there are often just not enough bodies around to do the work.

What's the rush for better and more varied formats on HD? The industry can't afford to alienate those brave consumers who are forking out substantial money for receivers. We also need positive press for HD Radio. What's the point in advertising HD Radio to the masses on AM and FM stations, only to have those who make the leap become adversaries instead of missionaries?

The author is president of Lapidus Media. Write to him at marklapidus@yahoo.com.

Comment on this or any article to radioworld@imaspub.com.



**Product:** Probe Version 3 Company: V-Soft Communications LLC

'Where does my signal go? Where would it go if I moved my site or increased power?" Good questions for broadcasters. Probe 3 is a propagation prediction computer program. It integrates a polygon-based mapping system with routines for predicting coverage of broadcast or communications systems in the 22 MHz to 22 GHz frequency range.

The program uses various propagation models including

FCC, Longley-Rice, Okamura/Hata/Davidson, Cost-31/Hata, TIREM, PTP, ITU Model P.1546-1 and others. It can predict locations of received interference as well as coverage. There are modules for importing measured signal, booster/single-frequency network synchronization analysis and specialized D/U analysis. Numerous high-rez terrain, land cover and population databases are available.

Said one judge: "Sophisticated and visually stunning." Shipping now.

Design: John Gray, Jesse Connell, Doug Vernier

Price: Basic \$7,995; Standard \$9,995; Professional \$12,995 Info: (800) 743-3684 or www.V-Soft.com/Probe

# **COOL STUFF 2006 AWARD WINNER**



Product: Vorsis AP-1000 Digital Spectral Processor Company: Wheatstone Corp.

"A credible entry for the company into the very competitive world of on-air processing," one judge wrote. While this is not Wheatstone's first processor, the company has significantly ramped up its presence with a unit that provides



31 bands of processing, three-band AGC and matrix processing.

"I like that it also includes an expander and de-esser," a judge said. "The display and control system really make the unit stand out, providing front-panel dedicated LED light-column FSD metering, a color screen and touch pad with left/right mouse buttons. Operation is considerably easier with its familiar-feel GUI display/controls than the usual push-encoder controls.

Occupying three RU and equipped with AES digital and analog inputs and outputs, the AP-1000 performs FM/AM and HD audio signal functions. The 31-band compressor/limiter provides individual thresholds, clipping and filters for each band. Wheatstone says the design allows for more detailed compression algorithms than six-band processors. Signal activity is shown via spectrum analysis graphs on an FFT flat-panel display, as well as on the matching PC software GUI. The panel has an Ethernet I/O connection, a headphone output jack and a USB mouse port. Shipping now.

Designers: Gary Snow and Wheatstone Engineering/Product Development

Price: \$13,000

Info: (252) 638-7000 or www.vorsis.com



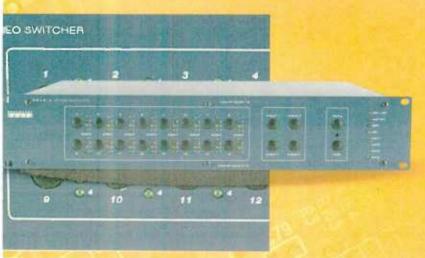
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#### SS 16.16

The SS 16.16 provides audio routing of 16 stereo inputs to 16 stereo outputs. This type of routing allows any one stereo input to be assigned to any/or all stereo outputs. The SS 16.16 may be controlled via front panel encoder controls and/or a multi-drop RS-232 senal port. A 40 x 4 LCD back lit disply provides for input descriptions and macro setup. Additional features: headphone amplifier with front panel jack and level control, front panel monitor speaker with mute switch and level control, internal audio activity/silence sensor with a front panel ACT indicator and rear panel open collector, and a 16 GPIO port. FREE Windows NetSwitch remote control software, which supports Serial, USB and Ethernet with the optional ESS-1 Ethernet to serial converter, is available for download. Installation is simplified with plug-in euroblock screw terminals.



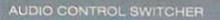
#### SS 16.4

The 16.4 provides matrix audio switching of 16 stereo inputs to 4 stereo plus 4 monaural outputs. Matrix switching allows any/or all inputs to be assigned to any/or all outputs. The SS 16.4 may be controlled via front panel switches, contact closures, 5-volt TTL/CMOS logic and/or the multi-drop RS-232 or RS-485 serial port along with 24 GPIO's and input expansion port. Installation is simplified with plug-in euroblock screw terminals

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#### ACS 8.2

The ACS 8.2 provides matrix audio switching of 8 stereo inputs to 2 stereo plus 2 mono outputs. Any input assigned to output one has fading capabilities. Matrix switching allows any/or all inputs to be assigned to any/or all outputs. The ACS 8.2 may be controlled via front panel switches, contact closures, 5-volt TTL/CMOS logic and/or the multi-drop RS-232 serial port along with 16 GPI's, eight relays, eight open collector outputs, and input expansion port. Installation is simplified with plug-in euroblock screw terminals.

#### STEREO SWITCHER



#### SS 4.2

The SS 4.2 provides matrix audio switching of 4 stereo inputs to 2 stereo plus 2 mono outputs. Matrix switching allows any/or all inputs to be assigned to any/or all outputs. The SS 4.2 may be controlled via front panel switches, contact closures, 5-volt TTL/CMOS logic and/or the multi-drop RS-232 serial port along with 16 GPI's, eight GPO's, and input expansion port. Installation is simplified with plug-in euroblock screw terminals.

#### **DUAL STEREO AUDIO SWITCHER**

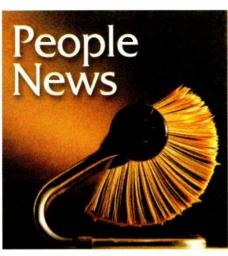


#### **SS 8.2**

The SS 8.2 provides crosspoint switching/routing with 8 stereo inputs, 2 stereo plus 2 mono outputs, 3 switching modes, I/O trimmers, internal silence sensor, selectable headphone and powered speaker level controls and outputs. LED VU meters, 16 GPI's, eight relays and eight open collector outputs. Multi-drop RS-232 and RS-485 serial ports, plug-in euroblock screw terminals and input expansion port.



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We're particularly interested in hearing news about radio engineers and managers. Send news and photos via e-mail to radioworld@imaspub.com or mail to Radio World People News, P.O. Box 1214, Falls Church, VA 22041

John Barrett was named director of engineering for Fisher Radio Seattle and KOMO(TV), replacing Kelly Alford, who was promoted to VP-CIO. Barrett previously served as broadcast engineer.



John Barrett

Charlie Osgood was appointed chief engineer for the Morris radio stations in Wenatchee, Wash. He had been...

WAY(FM) Media Group made changes to its engineering and technology department. **Morgan Grammer** was promoted to director of engineering and technology.





Morgan Grammer

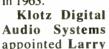
Jim Turvaville

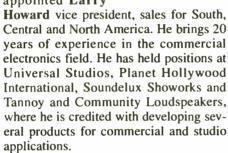
He had been western regional corporate engineer since 2004. ... Jim Turvaville vacated his post as southeast region corporate engineer, which he had held since 1999, and relocated to Colorado Springs. Colo., to assume the position of corporate expansion specialist.

Salem Communications named Dennis Ciapura senior VP for broadcast development, overseeing broadcast development and property management and well as the company's engineering and research departments. Prior to joining the company in 2004, he had been president of Performance Broadcasting, a consulting company that provides management and acquisition services to the broadcast industry.

The Society of Broadcast Engineers presented John H. Battison, PE, CPBE,

with its Lifetime A c h i e v e m e n t Award at the SBE's spring Membership Meeting, held during the NAB convention. Battison, known as "Member No. 1," is founder of the SBE, formed in 1963.





John H. Battison

The New York State Broadcasters Association named the VP/GM of WNYW(TV) and WWOR(TV) Lew Leone as chairman, filling the vacancy of Dennis Lamme, who left the state to become regional VP and market manager for Clear Channel Radio in St. Louis.

Jim McKernan was named vice president/general manager for KEZK(FM)

2006

and KYKY(FM), CBS Radio's AC stations in St. Louis. He had been VP/GM of Emmis Television's CBS affiliate KMTV in Omaha, Neb.

Axia Audio hired Marc Johnson as its applications engineer. He had been chief engineer at WEGL(FM), a student-run station at Auburn College and Axia's first studio client.

Orban/CRL



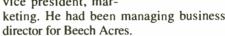
Marc Johnson

Jeff Jaworski

appointed 13-year company veteran Kevin Clayborn to North American sales manager, including the United States and Canada. He replaces Steve Gordoni, who accepted a position with Audemat-Aztec. Clayborn joined Orban/CRL in 1993 as a customer service manager and has worked within the company in various positions over several years, including Orban customer service support engineer, and CRL and Avocet product manager.

Jeff Jaworski joined World Christian Broadcasting as an engineer at its facility in Anchorage, Alaska. He had been a student at Abilene Christian University in Texas.





ABC Radio Networks appointed Carey Davis vice president, multicultural sales. His most recent position had been VP/GM at Spanish Broadcasting System.

Harris Corp. named Robert K. Henry executive vice president. He had been senior VP of Harris and president of the company's Government Communications Systems Division, one of Harris Corp.'s two government-related businesses; the other is the RF Communications Division. Henry continues to serve as president of GCSD, as well as business leader for the GCSD and RF divisions.

Bill Hess was appointed operations manager for Clear Channel Radio AM stations WTEM, WTNT and WWRC. He oversees programming operations for the company's AMs in Washington and continues in his role as PD for WASH(FM). Prior to joining Clear Channel's Washington cluster three years ago, he spent five years as director of programming for three stations in Providence, R.I.

Westwood One says Bob Meyers was named executive vice president of digital media, data and video. In 2002, he served as general manager of CNBC Enterprises; in 2004 he added the title of SVP, primetime programming. Most recently, he joined the board of DoubleClick Inc.

NAB Radio Board Chair David Field reappointed the Radio Board members listed below to another two-year term: Susan Davenport Austin, vice president of strategic planning and treasurer, Sheridan Broadcasting, and president, Sheridan Gospel Network; Edward K. Christian, president and CEO, Saga Communications; Lew Dickey Jr., chairman, president and CEO, Cumulus Media; David J. Field, president and CEO, Entercom Communications; Alfred C. Liggins III, president and CEO, Radio One; Mark P. Mays, presi-

dent and CEO, Clear Channel Communications; Susan K. Patrick, executive vice president and co-owner, Legend Communications; and Charles M. Warfield, Jr., president and COO, ICBC Broadcast Holdings. Terms for the reappointed board members begin at the June NAB Radio Board meeting.

Abby Goldstein was hired as program director for New Hampshire Public Radio, succeeding Michael Arnold, who left the station in October 2005 to take a position with Public Radio International. Goldstein had previously been program director at KERA(FM) in Dallas.

Broadcasters' Foundation Director Richard A. Foreman, president and

chief executive officer of Richard A. Foreman Associates, was presented with the 2006 Broadcasters' Foundation Chairman's Award at the organization's annual breakfast during the NAB2006 in Las Vegas on April 26.



Richard A. Foreman

Lamar Marchese, founder and president/general manager of Nevada Public Radio since 1979, said he plans to retire in March 2007. A national search for a successor has been launched.

Dara Altman was named executive vice president of business and legal affairs for XM Satellite Radio. She had been executive vice president of business affairs for Discovery Communications Inc.

The Network Radio Research Council selected **Dr. Tom Evans**, senior vice president of research for ABC Radio Networks as chair for a one-year term. **Charles Steinhauer**, senior vice president of research and operations for Dial Communications-Global Media, was selected as vice chair.

Richard Rice joined Broadcast Electronics as a regional sales manager responsible for the company's AudioVault and The Radio Experience digital media product lines. He previously served as director of business development for IT firm Midwest Information Technology Group.

RW published a story in Feb. 1, 2004 about a young broadcaster, Brian "Dee" DeNicola, who was 18 at the time and working for Salem stations WMCA(AM) and WWDJ(AM) as a control operator and announcer. Today, DeNicola is in his third year at Rutgers University. He works at WABC(AM) in New York and at Sirius Satellite Radio as co-producer of Cousin Brucie Morrow's live oldies show.





## **COOL STUFF 2006 AWARD WINNER**

**Product:** easi-8 Remote Monitoring and Control System Company: WIT Inc.

"A fine first entry from a new supplier on the radio scene," the Cool Stuff judges found.

Radio World introduced you to WIT in an interview with Bill Gillman, shown here, last year. The company's three partners are former Gentner Communications employees based in Utah.

The easi-8 monitoring and control system offers eight true differential inputs that accept 0 to 160 volts AC



or DC and can be designated either metering or status. A 16-bit analog-to-digital converter coupled with five input ranges allows inputs as small as 50 millivolts to yield 12 bits of precision. Eight relay outputs offer both normally open and normally closed contacts. Remote monitoring is accomplished with a Web browser from anywhere on the network. Alarm notification is via e-mail, with an internal clock offering logging and time-of-day functionality. Multiple units can be stacked to achieve any channel count. Now shipping.

Designers: Chris Clark, software; Bill Gillman, concept and hardware.

Price: \$1,295

Info: (801) 326-1300 or www.easi-8.com

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Bird Thurline inline-watt meter -0-125 MHz, carries 50,000 watts forward - 5.000 watts reverse. \$2,000 - weighs about 50 lbs alleo21@yahoo.com or (770)-300-9287 8-6pm

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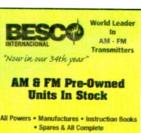
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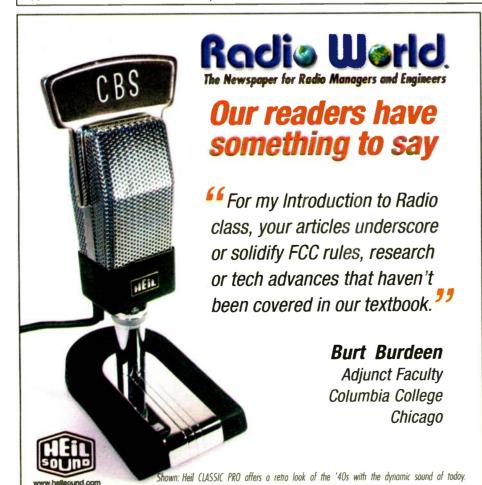
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GUEST COMMENTARY

# Was Fessenden's 1906 Broadcast Accidental?

This December Brings a Big Radio Anniversary. But Why Did the Inventor Miss the Point?

#### by Edward F. Perry Jr.

One-hundred-and-three years ago, Professor Reginald Audrey Fessenden, an educator, engineer and inventor, began construction of a radio station in Brant Rock, Mass. He designed that station to transmit voice communications and arranged to have special receivers installed on a number of ships.

Then, on Christmas Eve, 1906, he played phonograph records and performed on his violin in front of a microphone. The audience at sea was astonished. Fessenden was delighted. He had demonstrated the feasibility of a wireless telephone.

Fessenden never pursued the concept of broadcasting, and at the time probably never envisioned there could ever be such a thing.

#### Serendipity

Most historians view the event we celebrate this year — the first broadcast of words and music actually received by a mass audience — as a mere spur in the history of communications technology. Today in 2006, it seems automatic that the technical ability to transmit sound without wires must certainly lead to the practice we know as "broadcasting."

But Fessenden did not found a broadcasting industry. His experiments with wireless voice communication did not even seem to stir imaginations in that direction. And despite Helen Fessenden's diary entry about her husband's "broadcast," there is the possibility that Fessenden did not mean to broadcast at all; that the multiplicity of receivers he had installed in ships were there, not to create an audience, but to ensure he could document at least one reception report.

It fell to Lee De Forest, one of Fessenden's competitors, to demonstrate nearly a decade later that radio was, in fact, a magic carpet that would bring the world into everyone's home.

Why did Fessenden miss the point so completely? Probably it was the scientific mindset at the time. The telephone was

still a new device; a tidy little miracle that transformed Bell and his engineers into legends.

Communications was a point-to-point business and Fessenden's financiers naively set their sights on Bell's customers. But it was also the tenor of the times.

There are people alive today who remember the early years of the 20th century. Ask about mass communication at that time and they will tell you about newspapers. The concept of instantaneous broadcasting simply did not exist then.

The idea that one could sit at home and leisurely peruse that world of songs, stories and news spewed from a speaker

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on the table was unknown. In fact, in 1906, the concept of leisure existed in only a limited number of homes.

So in this centennial year we honor Fessenden and his first broadcast because of what he did, not because he became rich by doing it. The first astronaut on a distant planet may leave it without ever mining the gold. He may never even see the glimmer. And though others may find the fortunes, he will be secure in history as the one who went there first.

History, at least the history of broadcasting, must certainly remember Professor Reginald Aubrey Fessenden. On Christmas Eve, 1906, he went there first. And proved it could be done.

The author is the owner of WATD(FM) in Marshfield, Mass.

#### **Corrections**

The May 24 issue, page 46, contained an erroneous caption. The photo, reprinted here, shows Lincoln Zimmanck of Audio Intervisual Design Inc. working in the Plus24 booth.

Also in that issue, a story about electronic audience measurement stated Arbitron will begin using data from cellphone-only house-holds in 2008. The com-



pany says it is including cellphone-only households now in the Houston PPM trials and plans to include cell households in paper diaries in 2008.

GUEST COMMENTARY

# **Lessons From Hurricane Katrina**

Broadcasters' Foundation Says the Storm Brought Out the Character of Broadcasters

#### by Gordon Hastings

"It was not just about the money. It was knowing that someone really cared."

These comments were central to nearly every conversation between the Broadcasters' Foundation and the more than 275 Hurricane Katrina victims we helped in 2005.

The Broadcasters' Foundation Hurricane Katrina relief effort was set in motion immediately following director Richard A. Foreman's establishment of a \$50,000 matching grant to help fellow broadcasters and their families impacted by the storm. Colleagues who cared deeply matched his grant within 48 hours. Supplemented by additional resources from the foundation, more than \$275,000 was expedited to broadcasters in Louisiana and Mississippi by the end of 2005.

We learned a great deal about the character of those individuals, who are the heart and soul of radio and television stations. We became closely acquainted with hard-working professional men and women, who cared about their commitment to serving their local communities despite having suffered enormous personal loss.

Many continued to find their way to their respective stations when they no longer had a home themselves. Others stayed at the broadcast facilities for days keeping information flowing to the public. They were grateful for our assistance and heartened with the knowledge that colleagues in far away places embraced them.

#### Courage under fire

The personal courage of these individuals is remarkable. While some were forced to leave the Gulf Coast in the interest of their children and families. many more stayed to see their stations back on the air, finding themselves back at work full-time and beginning to

It takes a family from many different backgrounds and with a wide variety of skills to compliment a broadcast station. Because of Hurricane Katrina, we met people holding nearly every broadcast job description who cared about each other, their stations and their communities. It was a valuable reminder that at the heart of our industry is a special group of men and women who love their jobs, neighborhoods, cities and towns, and truly believe that our profession is

Hurricane Katrina aid in 2005 represented only part of the benevolent outreach by the Broadcasters' Foundation. In addition to the \$275,000 in Katrina grants, our work throughout the year continued by providing over \$300,000 in monthly grants to colleagues who are in acute need.

The Broadcasters' Foundation's average monthly grant to an individual or family is now \$1,100. That may not seem like a great deal to a person earning five figures, but for a person dependent only on Social Security, and who also is ill

and trying to pay medical deductibles, the money can be lifesaving. In 2006, our grants will exceed \$500,000. To put this is perspective, 10 years ago the annual grants total was only \$13,000.

The foundation's ability to grow its outreach has resulted from an outpouring



Norm Feuer of Clear Channel Radio Jacksonville, Fla., wins Champion Angler Award in the 2006 Broadcasters' Foundation Offshore Challenge. From left: Juliette Sargent, Feuer and Michelle Jones.

of support from throughout the radio and television industry. Broadcasters have come to understand the tremendous need that is fulfilled by the foundation's work. We have become the vehicle by which we can help our colleagues in a number of different ways.

During 2005, \$578,000 was contributed to the Broadcasters' Foundation Endowment Fund and to the Angel Initiative. The endowment is the means by which individuals contribute to the foundation on an annual basis. The Angel Initiative is an annual corporate giving program.

Contributors should know that even with the extraordinary demands placed upon us by Katrina we were able, through contributions and events, to replace endowment resources so they in fact exceed the amount we began with in January 2005. That fulfills the endowment fund's goal of always making sure we have the resources so no future call for help will go unanswered.

#### Fun for a good cause

The Broadcasters' Foundation annual events play a vital role in our outreach. Net income from the Golden Mike Award, the NAB Charity Golf Tournament and the annual Celebrity Golf Tournament exceed the operating expenses of the foundation. Therefore, we are able to cover all monthly grants, in addition to the foundation's total annual overhead, and still transfer operating surplus to the endowment fund at the end of the year.

A major reason for this extraordinary

operates with extremely low overhead, which includes a staff of only two fulltime employees, Director of Administration and Finance Eleanor Matera and myself. Our modest office space on the second floor of a 70-year-old building in Greenwich, Conn., works just fine.

accomplishment is that the foundation

Our signature annual event is the Golden Mike Award. This year we honored Jeff Smulyan, chair of Emmis

Communications. The dinner, held at The Waldorf Astoria in New York, set a new net revenue record. The outpouring of personal warmth for Jeff was exhilarating. The contribution of time and talent that made the evening so special was enormous.

Dick Ferguson, retired executive vice president of Cox Radio, set a new standard by personally coordinating and financing the production of a Jeff-TV satire that will be difficult to match in the years ahead. Dick's generosity is one more example of the wonderful folks in our industry coming together for a great

Broadcasters' Foundation Charity Golf Tournament for NAB2006 sold out in December 2005. This tournament has been held annually at the NAB convention in Las Vegas for the past 11 years. The event would not be possible without the wonderful collaboration and support we receive from the NAB, historically from Eddie Fritts and now from the NAB's new President and CEO

The 2006 Broadcasters' Foundation Celebrity Golf Tournament, now is its seventh year, will be held on Monday, Sept. 25, 2006 at the prestigious Stanwich Club in Greenwich, Conn. The tournament sold out for the fifth year in a row. This event was conceptualized by Broadcasters' Foundation Director Scott Knight, and has become the industry's annual golfing event, raising more than \$300,000 annually in support of our mission.

The money we raise from our events is important, but equally beneficial to the foundation is the visibility among the many new people we reach through these functions. As Scott Knight has said many times, "There is nothing wrong with people having a good time in support of a charity that is near and dear to their hearts." I think Scott has it exactly right.

Following the creative tradition of the NAB Golf Tournament and the Celebrity Golf Tournament, foundation director Skip Finley has established the Broadcasters' Foundation Offshore Challenge. Yes, a fishing tournament to raise money for our mission.

The second annual Offshore Challenge was held May 19-21 in Nassau, Bahamas. Fifty-five broadcasters aboard 13 charter boats participated in the tournament, which raised \$45,000. Foundation Chair Phil Lombardo is following in the great tradition set by Chair Emeritus Ed McLaughlin and former Chairs Ward Quaal and Jim Delmonico in providing energized leadership for the board of directors.

The success of any philanthropic organization rests with its directors, and we think the Broadcasters' Foundation board has attracted a fabulous cross-section of the radio and television industry.

I have come to learn that giving back lifts the spirit of the benefactor and well as that of the beneficiary. How can you help? Embrace the spirit of giving back. As Ed McLaughlin has said so many times with his signature sign-off, "It will feel good."

Gordon Hastings is president of the Broadcasters' Foundation, For more information visit www.broadcastersfoundation.com or call Gordon Hastings at (203) 862-8577. 🗳

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# ♦ READER'S FORUM ♦

#### **Does Internet** Radio Cost the Listener?

Whoa there! Hold your horses. Skip Pizzi is an old acquaintance of mine from NPR days, but he's a bit wrong about Internet Radio ("Broadcasters, Pick Your Poison," April 20).

As broadcasters, once we launch our radio waves from our investment in transmitter gear and electricity anyone within earshot can tune us in. Our cost is fixed.

With the Internet you have to pay a subscription fee for this "free" service. Connecting to the Web is not free.

Internet bandwidth is not unlimited. If [enough] folks discover your Webcast and attempt to tune in or download your show you'll have to pony up for the additional bandwidth and it isn't free or cheap. In effect a Webcaster has to pay for each listener.

So, even though audio and/or video Webcasts will become available to cell phones, PDAs and other portable devices not unlike Walkman radios, it will cost the listener. And it will cost the program provider based upon the peak number of listeners. Bandwidth is not usually doled out in an instantaneous as-needed basis, but rather in blocks of sufficient size to handle the peak load.

This means that the only effective way

to reach a truly large audience at minimal cost is - tada! - via traditional broadcasting radio waves.

My intent was to state that we have a fixed cost per capita (listener) in broadcast radio while the other forms require an expenditure per capita, which can quickly get expensive on both the content originator's and the listener's end. So, while I agree we should have a presence in other popular media environments, we should not lose sight of our primary business, over-the-air radio. To that end I am a strong champion of HD-R multicasting.

Ira Wilner Chief Engineer Monadnock Radio Group Saga Communications Keene, N.H.

### Remembering an **Engineer**

I'm enclosing photos taken at WKAQ(AM), San Juan, Puerto Rico in 1939. The gentleman in the photo is Chief Engineer José Soler. He was my father and passed away two years ago at

age 98.
WKAQ was the first radio station in Puerto Rico and went on the air in 1922. José D. Soler

President/Chief Engineer WCPR/Coamo Broadcasting Corp. Coamo, P.R.



WKAQ(AM) Chief Engineer José Soler, at left, circa 1939.

#### Digital Standards: Possible or Practical?

The electronics and broadcasting industries have established many standards over the years. We recognize RIAA equalization for vinyl, NAB Magnetic Tape Recording and Reproduction specifications, +4 dBm and 600-ohm audio, 50-ohm RF, AES/EBU for digital, 32, 44.1 and 48 KHz sampling rates, MPEG, ATRAC and other perceptual coding algorithms, data compression algorithms such as .ZIP .RAR, .LZH, .ACE and others.

Although the values cited are widely accepted, they are incompatible. A .ZIP file cannot be uncompressed with .RAR extraction technology. End connectors for brand "A" coaxial cable cannot be properly fitted on brand "C" cable of the same size, despite the fact that they properly mate together per the size standard. Sampling rates must match in order to transfer data from one component to another.

Most standards are established over a period of years. A good example is the TIA-222G revision for tower safety. Automatic sample rate conversion now is a common feature on digital audio equipment. Protocol bridges automatically convert between proprietary digital algorithms. For the end user it would be preferable for a common standard to exist whereby brand "C" codecs can communicate directly with brand "T" products. Microphones have adopted the XLR male connector. The technology inside the microphone may change, but the connection to the outside world remains the same. In fact, when phantom power became popular, the connector and cabling required no change.

Does the broadcast industry want or need such a feature? How long would it take to develop and adopt such a standard? How long would it last before it is outpaced by newer technology?

In the computer world, word processors contain conversion tools so that a document created in one brand can be opened in another. Compression software such as WinRAR, WinACE and WinZip allow users to access and convert between algorithms. Should broadcast equipment offer such a feature? Is it worth the cost? Would it be preferable and economical not to require conversion apparatus to make different brand equipment compatible?

Standards have been around for a long time. Can they keep pace with technology? Are they even necessary?

- RW

#### **Keep 'Em Stocked**

Joe Milliken's shopping survey ("Audio Stores, Where are the Radios?" May 10) was eye-opening, for sure. I have worked in the broadcast industry the kind with pictures — and as a home systems installer in a market where the consumer is slow, almost loath to change what they have and know works.

Several equipment company reps told me the area where I live is one of the last in the country to adapt to new technology. Not surprising.

But the overview Mr. Milliken offered, in the area of the country he was in, scares me. From the broadcaster's viewpoint, there are few listeners choosing to upgrade to receive the new signals. But what is more maddening is the retailers' pathetic non-attempts to show new, groundbreaking gear to their buyers. Although I do remember satellite radio had a slow start as well. About the only startup that brought buyers in the door seems to be DSS television; and what once cost \$1000 to buy is now

given away. Sign of the times?

After reading the article, I recalled that even as an installer there are so many things the consumer electronics salespersons have to remember about the products they are selling. Most stores have specialists for the different products they sell. If stations want to get the word out, pick out a chain or a single store and get them, by whatever means necessary, to work with that station or group to bring the listeners in the door. I know from seeing it happen that when that station van or truck is in the lot, the listeners — and hopefully buyers will come.

Keeping them in the store to listen to HD Radio is a collaborative effort; bumper stickers and free food are just the start. If the stores don't know the technology, or don't have it yet, they should know whom to call upon at the equipment companies or the companies' sales agencies.

This is a team effort. Don't kill this off before it's had a chance to prove itself.

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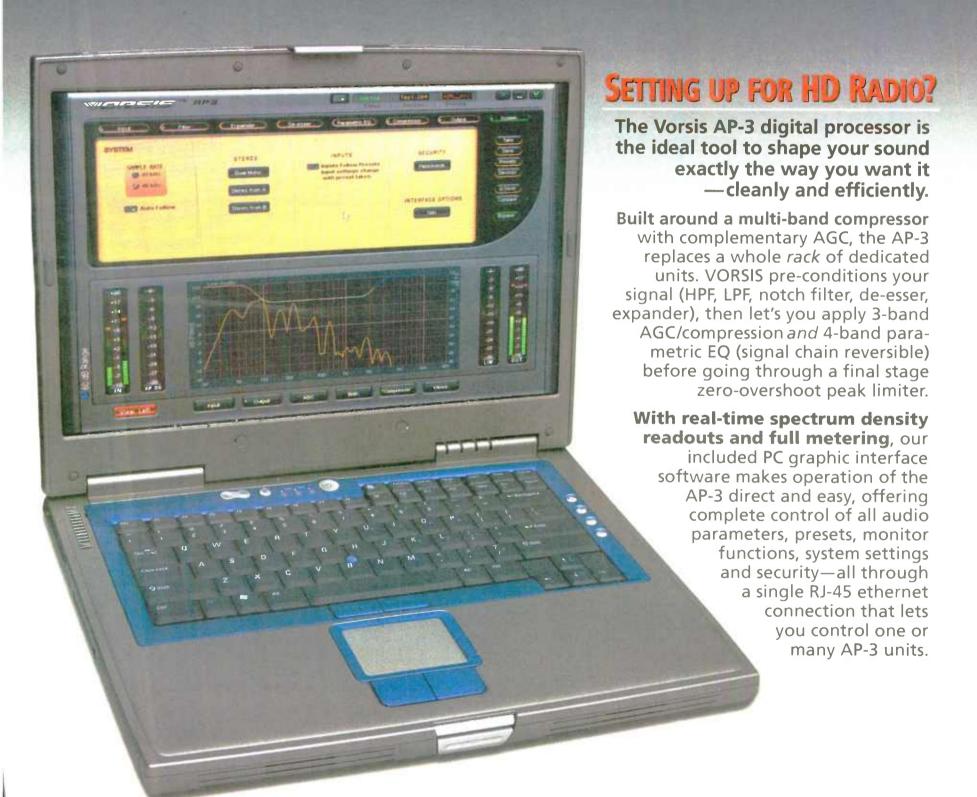
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