

Lord Carter MP  
Department for Business, Enterprise & Regulatory Reform  
1 Victoria Street  
London  
SW1H 0ET

12<sup>th</sup> March 2009

Dear Lord Carter,

I am writing on behalf of the WorldDMB Forum members to confirm our support for your Interim Digital Britain report.

WorldDMB is the non-governmental body responsible for the DAB family of standards with members represented from all parts of the industry and across the world. Our members created the original DAB standard, and more recently WorldDMB developed DAB+ and DMB. Recently, at the request of regulators in the UK, France and Germany, we developed and published the Digital Radio Receiver Profiles to unify these standards and aid interoperability across Europe.

We believe the Digital Britain report is a positive endorsement of the DAB standard in the most successful digital radio market in the world. Our membership welcomes this report as a clear step towards the take up of digital radio in Europe with positive implications for the rest of the world. The leadership and commitment shown by the UK is important to other countries who are showing an increasing level of confidence which is resulting in similar digital radio migration roadmaps within their own nations. The UK is widely acknowledged as a leader in the field of digital radio roll out and the commitment and support at a governmental level is key to this success.

Digital radio development in many other countries is at a critical stage. Established and new markets are looking towards the DAB family as the platform on which to achieve this. With the UK announcement that DAB is seen as the primary digital radio distribution network, the case for DAB elsewhere becomes more assured. The Digital Britain report is critical to the industry as a whole by promoting confidence in the digital future of radio; this is of particular importance to future developments by European broadcasters, manufacturers, regulators and the car industry.

The DAB family platform is currently **the most successful digital radio standard in the world**. Over 500m people are within coverage range of services and nearly 30 million receiver devices based on these standards have been sold worldwide.

At the present time Denmark, Norway, Switzerland, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Spain, Sweden and The Netherlands have committed to a digital radio future based on the DAB platforms. Markets such as Russia, Poland, Greece and some of the Balkan states are now considering the DAB platform for digital radio services. Australia, Malaysia, Singapore and China are also committed to the DAB standard and, of course, South Korea uses DMB and DAB as its highly successful mobile TV and digital radio platform.

The '**Digital Radio Receiver Profiles**' mentioned above were produced in collaboration with the EBU and EICTA to bring harmonisation of digital radio standards across Europe. This work was undertaken to support the roll out of the DAB family and provide guidance and clarity to broadcasters, manufactures and regulators. These Digital Radio Receiver Profiles have been well received internationally by manufacturers, the car industry, broadcasters and regulators and are seen as an important step in the uptake of digital radio. They have practical and helpful implications for the UK and its consideration of the future of digital radio and related services.

WorldDMB is currently engaged with partners in the European car industry to assist and promote the take up of digital radio receivers across Europe. We recognise the barriers to growth in the UK and the importance of the car industry to radio listening and successful transition to digital.

We concur with the elements you have identified in the Digital Britain report which are necessary factors in success, including: suitable regulation, government support and investment, good coverage, the availability of mass market products, take up of digital radio by the telecommunication and car industries, production of new digital-only content and promotion of these new products and services. WorldDMB and its members are committed to ensuring these conditions can be met in the UK and elsewhere.

In conclusion, we support the actions laid out in the Digital Britain report and welcome the formation of the **Digital Radio Delivery Group** to ensure that these actions are achieved. WorldDMB has an unrivalled knowledge base and experience and we would welcome an invitation to play a full and active role in this group, bringing the support and expertise of its members from around the world and reflecting the group's conclusions and actions to our members in other countries.

If you have any further questions about WorldDMB, the technical standards, rollout of the platform and experiences in other countries, or any other matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'A. Quentin Howard', with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

Quentin Howard  
President, WorldDMB