

**Name and title:** Frank de Pellette

**Representing:** Self

**Comments:**

DAB / Eureka 147 has failed to meet its promise of quality delivery of broadcast radio in the U.K. The ever diminishing bit rates of services on some of the multiplexes, combined with the option of monaural transmission is anachronistic in 2006. A more flexible approach to coding and data compression needs to be adopted if we're not to allow the U.K. to wallow in out of date technology. AAC + is certainly a step in the right direction, but is probably not a long term solution to the issue of backwards compatibility. Looking at the subjective quality of the services carried on DAB at present, I feel that the predominance (in some regions) of voice tracked playout system based broadcast is an unjustifiable usage of precious and finite spectrum. Most of us can conjure up a similar effect at home with the assistance of a P.C. and some inexpensive software - such Radio station output hardly constitutes broadcasting, and is really not needed.

I would ask Ofcom to be minded to consider that a properly installed and operated F.M. transmission arrangement is at present, more likely to sound superior than anything currently transmitted via DAB, and consequently most radio listening will continue to be from a traditional Zenith/GE pilot tone F.M. source. I await your findings with interest.