
Small-scale radio multiplex licence

Application form – Part A (public)

Name of applicant (i.e. the body corporate that will hold the licence):

Southport DAB Ltd

Multiplex licence area being applied for (note this must be a small-scale multiplex area currently being advertised by Ofcom):

Southport

2. Extent of proposed coverage area

- 2.1 Provide a summary, fully consistent with the more detailed information about transmission sites supplied separately in Part B, of the coverage area proposed to be achieved by your technical plan. This should include a description of the target area you are seeking to serve within the advertised licence area, and also any areas you are aiming to serve outside the advertised licence area for this small-scale radio multiplex service. (You may refer to your coverage prediction in the response you provide):

Southport is a large, discrete town at the heart of England's 'Golf Coast'. It lies 26 km (16 miles) due north of Liverpool and some 53 km (33 miles) north west of Manchester. The polygon area also includes the inland communities of Formby, Ormskirk, Burscough and Maghull. Because of its location on the coastal plain, the surrounding terrain is generally flat and there are no significant hills or valleys that might otherwise have presented difficulties in coverage.

Our proposition is founded on three principles:

- Delivery of a reliable, consistent and high-quality DAB service to as much of the indoor population of the Southport Polygon as possible;
- Working to the original DCMS/Ofcom objective to make DAB affordable for community radio, small independent commercial stations and start-up services.
- Achieving the above within a sustainable, long-term business plan.

Our chosen transmission site is at Holy Trinity church. The church towers above the town at an impressive 43 meters above ground level. However, the structure itself is on the coast which governs the distance reached inland as the signal sweeps towards the knolls west of Ormskirk.

The affluent town of Formby to the south of Southport also falls outside the transmission area because, much of the terrain is below sea level and relies upon the famous sand dunes to provide protection from flooding. We are actively seeking a possible second transmission site for Formby that we would be prepared to evaluate following a period of successful operation. This would add approximately 24,000 people to the catchment area and enable us to offer a significantly improved service to our clients.

There are no issues with overlaps in our launch transmission proposals.

- 2.2 Provide summary details of the sites required to achieve this coverage by completing the table below (add additional rows as required):

Site Name	NGR	Antenna height	Antenna type proposed with bearing	New/existing antenna	ERP (W)
Holy Trinity	SD342175	45m	OMNI - Colinear	New	100

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2.3 Please provide a coverage prediction map for the whole transmitter network you are proposing to build within 18 months if you are awarded a licence. The map should show the 63 dB μ V/m field strength and the advertised small-scale DAB licence area contour.

[Small-scale DAB licence areas in GIS format](#) are available on the Ofcom website.

A full coverage prediction map for the whole transmitter network is included in the annex. It shows the 63 dB μ V/m field strength (as well as the 54 dB μ V/m and 38dB μ V/m contours).

The ward-level tables indicate that at 63 dB μ V/m field strength;

- the number of people falling outside the polygon does not exceed 30% of the total population within the advertised licence area; and
- the proposed coverage does not overlap more than 40% of the population within the relevant local radio multiplex service's licensed area.



2.4 Please provide the following details of the prediction software used for your coverage assessments:

Provide the name and version of the prediction tool used.	ATDI HTZ Communications v22 6.9 x64
Detail the terrain model used by the software and its resolution.	DTM: Ordnance Survey terrain data – 50 metre resolution (DSM+DTM)
Detail the ground cover (clutter) data used by the software and its resolution.	Infoterra clutter data to 50m resolution
What propagation algorithm has been used?	Model pre-set – Fresnel <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diffraction geometry – Deygout 94-2 • Subpath attenuation – coarse integration • FZ fraction 0.8 • Earth radius (sea and land) - 8,500km
Where multiple sites are proposed, describe what methodology has been used to assess the network (SFN) gain	Power sum
If these predictions have not used Ofcom-provided population data, state what population data has been used and its source.	Ofcom-provided population data has been used along with that from the 2011 Census which is included within ATDI's modelling software
Have your predictions been generated by a commercial organisation? If so, by whom?	Coverage predictions have been generated by Viamux using HTZ Communications software from ADTI.

3. Ability to establish the proposed service

Applicant's details

3.1 Name of applicant (i.e. the body corporate that will hold the licence):

Southport DAB Ltd

3.2 Company registration number stated on Companies House (if applicable):

13597108

3.3 For UK registered companies, the address of the applicant's registered office stated on Companies House. For non-UK registered companies, the principal office address:

50 Queenswood Drive, Leeds, LS6 3LG

3.4 If a UK registered company, is the **current** Memorandum and Articles of Association document available on the Companies House website?

Yes

Ownership and control of company which will hold the licence

Details of officers

3.5 Please complete the following table, expanding it, if necessary, to provide the following details for each director or designated member of the applicant (i.e. the body corporate that will hold the licence):

Full name of individual	Correspondence address ¹	Country of residence	Other officerships held (and nature of the business concerned)	Other employment
Abdul Razaq	50 Queenswood Drive, Leeds, LS6 3LG	UK	DAB Leeds Ltd (small-scale DAB applicant)	None

¹ This should be the same address as is held and published by Companies House.

Details of participants

- 3.6 Complete the table, expanding it, if necessary, to list all bodies or individuals which hold or are beneficially entitled to shares, or who possess voting powers, in the applicant (i.e. the “participants”). If you are unable to provide a complete answer to this question in relation to beneficial owners, please state whether you have any reason to suspect the existence of any beneficial owners.

(If parts of this question are not applicable to the applicant – for example, because the applicant does not have shareholders – please respond “N/A” in the relevant parts of the table.)

Full name of participant (existing and proposed)	Number of shares	Total investment (£s)	Total investment (%)	% of voting rights
Abdul Razaq	100	100	100	100
Comments				

Details of relationships of control

- 3.7 Complete the following table, expanding it, if necessary, to list any bodies corporate which are controlled by the applicant, any director of the applicant, any person/body corporate with control over the applicant, or any body corporate controlled by a person/body corporate controlling the applicant. Please include bodies corporate under joint control – i.e. which are controlled acting together in concert with third parties (e.g. because of a shareholder’s agreement):

(If this question is not applicable to the applicant please respond “N/A” in the table.)

Full name of body corporate	Address	Person/body controlling the entity (i.e. the applicant itself or its associate)
N/A	N/A	N/A

Details of persons who control the applicant

- 3.8 Complete the table, expanding it, if necessary, to list all persons/bodies corporate who control the applicant, or control any person/body corporate with control over the applicant. Please include persons or bodies that control the applicant (or body corporate with control over the applicant) jointly i.e. acting together in concert with third parties (e.g. because of a shareholder’s agreement). Please note that some of this information may repeat information provided above on shareholders and other participants in the applicant:

(If this question is not applicable to the applicant please respond “N/A” in the table.)

Full name of person/body corporate	Address	Person/body controlled by the entity (i.e. the applicant itself or its associate)
Abdul Razaq	50 Queenswood Drive, Leeds, LS6 3LG	Southport DAB Ltd

- 3.9 Complete the following table, expanding it, if necessary, to list other bodies in which any individual listed in response to question 3.8 is a director or designated member:

(If this question is not applicable to the applicant please respond “N/A” in the table.)

Full name of individual	Name of body in which individual is a director or designated member
Abdul Razaq	DAB Leeds Ltd

- 3.10 Complete the following table, expanding it, if necessary, to list all bodies corporate which are controlled (including jointly controlled) by any body corporate listed in response to question 3.8:

(If this question is not applicable to the applicant please respond “N/A” in the table.)

Full name of body corporate listed in 3.8	Body corporate controlled
N/A	N/A

3.11 In relation to each body corporate identified in response to question 3.8, complete the table, expanding it, if necessary, to list all bodies which hold or are beneficially entitled to shares, or who possess voting powers, in the body corporate concerned (i.e. “participants”). You may, but are not required to, exclude from this table any bodies listed in response to question 3.8. If you are unable to provide a complete answer to this question in relation to beneficial owners, please state whether you have any reason to suspect the existence of any beneficial owners.

(If this question is not applicable to the applicant please respond “N/A” in the table.)

Name of body corporate identified in response to question 3.8	Southport DAB Ltd			
Full name of participant	Number of shares	Total investment (£s)	Total investment (%)	% of voting rights
Abdul Razaq	100	100	100	100
Comments				

Involvement of the applicant in specified activities

3.12 Please state below whether the applicant, or any individual or body corporate identified in questions 3.5 to 3.11 is, or is involved in, any of the below, and the extent of that interest.

Activity/involvement	Yes or No	Please state who is involved; the name of the body/individual/agency they are involved with; and the extent of their involvement
A local authority	No	N/A
A body whose objects are wholly or mainly of a political nature, or which is affiliated to such a body	No	N/A
A body whose objects are wholly or mainly of a religious nature; ²	No	N/A

² Please refer to Sections 3 to 5 of Ofcom’s religious guidance note at: https://www.ofcom.org.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0028/88219/Guidance-for-religious-bodies.pdf for details on how we determine the eligibility of religious bodies to hold certain broadcasting licences.

An individual who is an officer of a body falling within (b) or (c);	No	N/A
A body corporate which is an associate (as defined in paragraphs 1(1) and 1(1A) of Part I of Schedule 2 to the Broadcasting Act 1990) of a body falling within (b) or (c);	No	N/A
An advertising agency or an associate of an advertising agency	No	N/A

Details of applications, licences and sanctions

3.13 Please answer 'yes' or 'no' to the following questions about the applicant (i.e. the body corporate that will hold the licence):

(a) Is the applicant a current licensee of Ofcom?

No

(b) Has the applicant ever held an Ofcom broadcasting licence before?

No

(c) Has anyone involved in the proposed service held an Ofcom broadcasting licence or been involved in an Ofcom-licensed broadcast service before?

Yes

(d) Does the applicant control an existing Ofcom licensee?

No

(e) Is the applicant controlled by an existing licensee or by any person who is connected (within the meaning of Schedule 2 to the Broadcasting Act 1990) with an existing licensee (i.e. as a "participant")?

No

(f) Has the applicant – or any person(s) controlling the applicant - made any other application to Ofcom (or its predecessor broadcast regulators – the Independent Television Commission and the Radio Authority) for any licence which has since been surrendered by the licensee or revoked by Ofcom (or one of its predecessor regulators)?

No

(g) Has the applicant – or any person(s) controlling the applicant - made any other application to Ofcom (or its predecessor broadcast regulators – the Independent Television Commission and the Radio Authority) for any licence which has since been surrendered by the licensee or revoked by Ofcom (or one of its predecessor regulators)?

No

(h) Is the applicant – or any person(s) controlling the applicant – subject to any current or pending investigation by any statutory regulatory or government body in the United Kingdom or abroad in respect of any broadcast-related matter?

No

(i) Has the applicant – or any person(s) controlling the applicant – ever been subject to a statutory sanction for contravening a condition of a broadcasting licence in the UK or any other jurisdiction?

No

3.14 If the response to any of the questions (a) to (i) in 3.14 above is ‘yes’, please provide the details, expanding the table where necessary:

	Licence number(s) (if known)	Details (Dates)	Details (Licensed Areas)
(a)			
(b)			
(c)	CR102153BA/1		Mighty Radio
(c)	DP101453BA_6		Sandgrounder Radio
(c)			
(d)			
(e)			
(f)			
(g)			
(h)			
(i)			

3.15 Please provide any further information you hold, relating to the past conduct of the applicant or those individuals listed, in regulatory matters or in matters going to honesty and/or compliance, which may be relevant to Ofcom’s consideration of whether or not the applicant is fit and proper to hold a broadcast licence. If the applicant or the form signatory fails without reasonable excuse at this point to declare any matter of which Ofcom subsequently becomes aware, and which we consider to be relevant to the applicant’s

eligibility to hold a licence, we will take it into account in determining the question of whether the applicant/licensee remains fit and proper to hold a licence.

If you have no information to provide, please respond "N/A".

N/A

3.16 Has the applicant – or any person(s) controlling the applicant – ever been convicted of an unlicensed broadcasting offence?

No

If yes, please provide the following details:

Full name	Date of conviction/action (dd/mm/yy)	Penalty
N/A	N/A	N/A

Financial and business plan

- 3.17 Please provide a high-level estimate of the costs you believe will be required to establish the multiplex service.

Southport DAB Ltd will establish a successful multiplex operation by providing existing community and commercial broadcasters as well as new entrants with a reliable digital broadcast platform on both affordable and flexible terms. A confidential spreadsheet that sets out detailed income and outgoings with a 36-month cash flow forecast is included in the annex.

Capital Investment - £30,000

Our core ambition is to be able to offer service providers a low cost, easy to access, high quality digital broadcast platform and to ensure its long-term sustainability. To achieve this, the capital investment we are making has been carefully weighed to provide sufficient funds to meet the needs of establishing the platform and to ensure carriage fees are attractive and sustainable for service providers over the longer term. This principle has guided the number and choice of transmission sites – to keep both the capital and operational cost of transmission to a minimum.

The main capital investment is in the choice of multiplexing & transmission supplier. We have selected Viamux to provide the professional services (project management, site surveys, network design, configuration, installation and training) and the multiplexing/transmission equipment.

Operating Costs - £22,444

Transmission

The costs associated with transmission (rental, rates, electrical power consumption, internet provision) are the single most important ongoing operating expenditure for a multiplex company. Our selection of transmission sites is a cost-effective choice that balances delivering the largest audience whilst ensure carriage fees remain attractive to service providers.

Technical Support & Maintenance

Ongoing technical support for maintaining the multiplex and transmission equipment will be provided by Viamux (by way of an annual support & maintenance contract).

Small-Scale DAB Management Software

We will also subscribe to Optimux - a low-cost cloud-based control panel that simplifies the management and monitoring of a small-scale DAB networks. For a low-cost monthly fee, Optimux will allow us to implement cloud encoding - making it quick, easy and cheap to add new services to a multiplex. It will also provide us with invoicing and direct debit collection to streamline the payment of carriage fees. Optimux will also monitor the multiplex and immediately alerts us to any issues and notify service providers regarding their audio.

Administration

The usual administration costs with operating a business of this size are included (insurance, legal and accountancy services) as is the annual Ofcom licence fee.

VAT

We expect for turnover to remain below the VAT registration threshold which will mean all carriage fees will be free from VAT. We expect many service providers will not be VAT registered and that an uplift of 20% would be a very real additional cost to them and a possible impediment to them participating in small-scale DAB.

Funding

The company will be funded through a combination of equity and primarily a shareholder working capital loan. will establish a successful multiplex operation by providing existing community and commercial broadcasters as well as new entrants with a reliable digital broadcast platform on both affordable and flexible terms.

3.18 Please indicate how the costs outlined in 3.17 (above) will be met, under the following headings:

a) Share capital

The company will be capitalised at £100

b) Loan stock

A working capital investment loan of £30,000 will be provided by the shareholders. We anticipate this loan being repaid within 3 years. Further funding is available, if required.

c) Leasing/HP facilities (capital value)

There is no requirement for Leasing/HP facilities.

d) Bank overdraft

There is no requirement for a Bank overdraft.

e) Grants and donations

There is no requirement for grants or donations.

f) Other (please specify)

None

3.19 Expanding the table if necessary, please list the providers of the funding which will be used to establish the service, and the amount of funding that each will provide. For incorporated investing shareholders, please provide a copy of the most recent statutory accounts if they are not currently available on Companies House.

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Name of shareholder or investor	Percentage of shares held (if applicable)	Amount of funding provided (£)
Abdul Razaq	100%	£30,000

- 3.20 All of the funding identified above should be confirmed. If any funding has not been confirmed, or if there are any pre-conditions before the funding is released which have not yet been met, provide an explanation of what needs to be done, the dates by which it needs to be carried out, and any steps the applicant needs to take to ensure the funding is confirmed and/or released.

All required funding is confirmed and available. Evidence that sufficient funds are available to each investing shareholder is available on request.

Relevant expertise and experience

- 3.21 Please provide details of who will be responsible for the day-to-day general management of the multiplex service (for example, dealing with programme service providers and contractual matters). Please also briefly state their previous relevant experience. (Note that any individuals or contractors who cannot be identified at this stage can instead be included in the confidential section (Part B) of the application form.)

Collaboration

Southport DAB Ltd is a strongly local applicant group with collaboration at the heart of its ethos. It brings together partner organisations each of them making a unique contribution by way of relevant skills and/or knowledge:

- Abdul Razaq – Radio Henna. Numerous RSLs for Asian community
- Sandgrunder Radio – the online radio station in Southport which has been successfully operating in the city since October 2007
- Mighty Radio – the Ofcom-licensed community radio station in Southport which has been successfully operating in the city since October 2007

General Management

With its experience, Southport DAB will take on the day-to-day general management of the multiplex service - managing commercial, financial and operational matters.

Launching, establishing and maintaining a DAB multiplex requires technical competence, operational expertise, financial stability, and an aptitude to manage third party relationships successfully.

Technical & Operational Support

Southport DAB management of the multiplex will be made easy with the use of Optimux – a software platform specifically developed, in 2020, for the day-to-day management of small-scale DAB multiplexes. Coming out of our experience of running one of the first UK small scale trials, Optimux equips small-scale DAB licensees with an easy to use dashboard for managing, monitoring and reporting on all aspects of a multiplex network as well as providing invoicing and direct debit collection to simplify the payment of carriage fees. Every aspect of the day-to-day management of a small-scale multiplex has been incorporated into Optimux.

Viamux will be responsible for the launch of the multiplex and Southport DAB for its subsequent day to day operation; in particular:

- Overseeing bit rate variations, enhancements or projects required by service providers, such as EPG provision, temporary services and data developments.
- Working with service providers and the transmission subcontractor to maximise multiplex functionality and efficiency.

- Monitoring and fault reporting, ensuring that the output of all service providers is correctly logged and compliant with legislation and codes.
- Developing new revenue streams.

Using Optimux, Southport DAB will oversee any multiplex re-configurations and these will be undertaken in line with our policies and contractual agreements with service providers. Southport DAB will provide ongoing financial management of the multiplex; accounts, IT, admin, legal, customer service and technical support.

Team

Members of the wider team share a track record of successfully establishing and operating radio stations as well as local DAB multiplexes. The combined experience of the stakeholders as multiplex operators and service providers demonstrates these capabilities and give us an excellent understanding of what is required in Southport – good coverage, service reliability and easy access for programme providers at an affordable and realistic price.

Key Personnel

Abdul Razaq

Razaq has been involved in radio broadcasting for over thirty years. One of the most experienced community broadcasters in the UK, he first got involved via Hospital radio and ran the first Asian RSL in Yorkshire in 1991. He has also been involved in voluntary sector since youth, was the Chair of the Association of blind Asians for more than a decade promoting equality for disabled people in all sectors.

Over these years, He has assisted, supported and advised numerous RSL groups and a number of community radio stations particularly in areas of engineering, training, administration and offering guidance in relation to legal requirement, programming, compliance, etc.

Andrew Hilbert

Andrew is the Content Director of Sandgrunder Radio which is operated by Diamond Media Broadcasting Ltd. This a company which Andrew is a director of and owns 50% of the shares. He has operated Sandgrunder Radio on a DSPPS Ofcom licence since June 2016, broadcasting on DAB on the NE WALES AND WEST CHESHIRE Multiplex.

Andrew has also run a number of successful Restricted Service Licences as well as teaching radio presentation and production skills to 16-19 year old students at Runshaw College, one of England's top performing college

He has worked within the radio industry as a presenter and broadcaster since April 2004.


Trevor Ford

Trevor has worked in the in the music, radio and broadcast industries for many years and has a good background knowledge with the infrastructure of how Radio works.

From setting stations up to working with the Broadcasting Code, within the industry Trevor knows that multitasking is key to making great radio. From Presentation to production, script writing to working with clients... every role plays a key part both to the output and to the community.

We believe that this highly experienced team has all the relevant expertise and local knowledge to deliver all aspects of launching and running a successful small-scale operation.

3.22 Please provide details of who will be carrying out the installation and on-going maintenance of your multiplexing / transmitter equipment (or the name of your proposed transmission and multiplex provider if you intend to use a third-party organisation for these services). Please also briefly state their previous relevant experience. (Note that any individuals or contractors who cannot be identified at this stage can instead be included in the confidential section (Part B) of the application form.)

Function	Responsible party	Previous experience
Installation of transmission equipment	Viamux	Viamux is a leading supplier of small-scale DAB solutions. It was established in 2017 by the Niocast Digital team - who have been operating the successful Trial Manchester small-scale multiplex for the past six years. Viamux have installed systems in the UK & Republic of Ireland. More info: www.viamux.com  the small-scale DAB solution specialists
Ongoing maintenance of the transmission equipment	Viamux	
Installation of the Multiplexing equipment	Viamux	
Day-to-day technical management and maintenance of the multiplexing equipment (if different from response to question 3.28 above)	Viamux	

Timetable for coverage roll-out

- 3.23 Please tell us how soon after licence award you expect your multiplex service to become operational and achieve the coverage you are proposing:

Southport DAB Ltd intends to launch the multiplex in less than 6 months from award of licence.

Upon award Southport DAB will immediately advance negotiations regarding the proposed transmission site(s). Following the procedure set out in Ofcom's Technical Policy Guidance, we will also liaise with other radio multiplex licensees on any impact our proposed transmitters might have. Once completed, Southport DAB will seek agreement from Ofcom for the proposed technical plan – mindful that the coverage proposed in our application is an award criterion and that any change will need to deliver broadly equivalent coverage.

Southport DAB will send final site details to Ofcom for clearance and evidence of liaison and agreement with those other radio multiplex licensees. Given the time taken to co-ordinate services we recognise the importance getting the final transmitter plans to Ofcom as quickly as possible.

Our timeline then focuses on the following key stages:

- Building and installing the DAB multiplex and transmission chain;
- Finalising carriage agreements with the service providers;
- Commissioning and testing the transmitter equipment for compliance with Ofcom's Digital Radio Technical Code; and
- Providing Ofcom with evidence of compliance with the licence and the Digital Radio Technical Code

Viamux has confirmed the availability of all equipment and services to meet our timescales.

- 3.24 In addition, please provide, as an annex to be submitted with this application, an outline project plan with timeline (e.g. a Gantt chart or similar) showing the high level activities and tasks leading up to the launch of your multiplex service.

The GANTT chart (included in the annex) sets out the precise, key stages in the implementation of the multiplex together with the timeline.

4. Involvement of C-DSP providers; demand or support from programme providers

Involvement of C-DSP providers

4.1 Is the applicant body proposing to provide its own C-DSP service on the multiplex?

NO

4.2 If the answer to the above question is 'yes', please provide a name and brief details of this proposed service. If the service is already licensed by Ofcom, the licence number should be provided:

N/A

4.3 If the answer to the above question is 'no', please provide details of any participant in the applicant body that is proposing to provide a C-DSP service on the multiplex. In this context, a "participant" refers to a person who holds or is beneficially entitled to shares in the applicant or possesses voting power in the applicant. If the service is already licensed by Ofcom, the licence number should be provided. Please refer to the nature of the participation (e.g. shareholding or agreement in relation to voting power):

- Mighty Radio – Ofcom licence number CR102153BA/1
Mighty Radio is a director of the applicant group.
- Sandgrunder Radio – Ofcom DSPS licence number DP101453BA_6
Sandgrunder Radio is a director of the Applicant Group.

Demand or support from programme providers

4.4 Please provide in the table below (expanding the table if necessary) the names of providers (or prospective providers) of community or local digital sound programme services who have expressed their demand or support for the provision of the proposed multiplex service in the area to be served by the multiplex service. For reasons of transparency, the response to this question must be answered below and should not be provided as a separate annex. The evidence of the demand or support, such as signed heads of terms or emails, should be provided as a confidential annex, and relate only to the specific multiplex being applied for.

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Name of service provider and station name (if known)	Proposed C-DSP or DSP	Nature of evidence of support provided
Mighty Radio	C-DSP	Part of Applicant Group
Sandgrounder Radio	C-DSP	Part of Applicant Group

5. Fair and effective competition

- 5.1 Please detail the measures that have already been taken, and will be taken before and during the licence period, to demonstrate that, in contracting or offering to contract with programme services providers, the applicant has acted in a manner calculated to ensure fair and effective competition in the provision of such services:

Ethos

Southport DAB Ltd is conscious of its responsibility to ensure fair and effective competition, at all times. We believe that when competition works well, service providers are motivated to maximise audience share and are better able to secure funding on the basis of their service offering - its uniqueness, its audience and the value it delivers. Alongside established brands, competition delivers greater choice for listeners and a better outcome for the public. It also ensures the long-term sustainability of service providers. Constrained only by capacity, our small-scale DAB platform will remain accessible to new entrants – a place where innovative formats will be encouraged and nurtured.

Proven

The shareholders in Southport DAB bring together a track record of successfully establishing radio stations and local & small-scale DAB multiplexes. Niocast Digital has successfully operated the Trial Manchester multiplex for the past five years providing a platform for existing community and commercial services as well as creating a 'launch pad' for a large number of new programme services.

Our unique approach has been to foster a healthy and vibrant radio 'ecosystem' – not only embracing existing commercial and community stations but also new entrants, pop-ups and experimental concepts. Niocast's experience of running the small-scale DAB multiplex in Manchester led to the introduction of a 'format matrix' which has proved to be highly successful in ensuring a balanced range of services rather than a preponderance of any particular genre. Southport DAB will deliver unprecedented choice for listeners in a carefully controlled, transparent way. Our ambition is to always ensure that our multiplex enriches the listener experience by complementing, rather than competing with, local and national ensembles.

Leadership

An award of this licence to Southport DAB Ltd ensures that the multiplex is operated by a locally-led community radio company supported by experienced individuals who have successfully implemented and operated DAB multiplexes. All stakeholders are committed to small-scale DAB and have the financial stability to support that ambition. Our team is hugely experienced and well resourced, with significant practical digital radio expertise.

Delivery

Launching a small-scale DAB platform is a significant undertaking and we have been encouraged by the number of positive responses to our plans. We have openly discussed our transmission plans, carriage terms and indicative fees. Southport DAB has engaged with potential service providers in an open, non-exclusive manner and will continue to do so throughout the duration of this licence. Each service provider will enter into a Carriage Agreement - the key terms of which are identical for all service providers. All fees charged will be pro-rata to capacity contracted by each service provider.

6. Declaration

- a) I hereby apply to Ofcom for the grant of a licence for the small-scale radio multiplex licence described above and declare that the information given in this application form is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, correct.
- b) I further declare and warrant:
- i) that the applicant is not a disqualified person within the meaning of that expression as defined in Part 2 of Schedule 2 to the Broadcasting Act 1990, as amended, or as a result of a disqualification order under section 145 of the Broadcasting Act 1996;
 - ii) that having made all reasonable enquiries neither the applicant nor any person controlling the applicant, as result of the grant to me of the licence, breach any requirement of Schedule 14 to the Communications Act 2003 with regard to the accumulation of interests in broadcasting services or to the restrictions on cross-media interests;
 - iii) that the applicant is not disqualified by virtue of the provisions of section 143 (5) of the Broadcasting Act 1996 in relation to political objects and the provisions of section 144 (3) of the Broadcasting Act 1996 in relation to the provision of false information or through the withholding of information with the intention of misleading Ofcom; and
 - iv) that no director or person concerned directly or indirectly in the management of the Licensee is the subject to a disqualification order as defined by section 145 (1) of the Broadcasting Act 1996.
- c) I understand that Ofcom reserves the right to revoke the licence (if granted) if at any time any material statement made to Ofcom is found to be false and to have been by the applicant or any member or officer thereof knowing it to be false. I also understand that under sections 144 and 145 of the Broadcasting Act 1996, the provision of false information could incur a criminal conviction and a disqualification from the holding of a Broadcasting Act licence. I further certify that, to the best of my knowledge, any matters which might influence Ofcom's judgement as to whether the directors and substantial shareholders involved in this application are fit and proper persons to participate in a radio licence, have been made known to Ofcom.

Full name (BLOCK CAPITALS) of the person authorised to make the application of behalf of the applicant:

ABDUL RAZAQ

Date of application:

1st SEPTEMBER 2021

I am authorised to make this application on behalf of the applicant in my capacity as Company Director.