

Radio – Preparing for the Future

Appendix C: Glossary

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Glossary of terms and definitions

3G Third-generation mobile systems. 3G provides high-speed data transmission and supporting multimedia applications such as full-motion video, video-conferencing and internet access.

AM Amplitude Modulation, Type of modulation produced by varying the strength of a radio signal. This type of modulation is used by broadcasters in three frequency bands: medium frequency (MF, also known as medium wave: MW); low frequency (LF, also known as long wave: LW), and high frequency (HF, also known as short wave: SW). The term AM is often used to refer to the medium frequency band (see MF below).

Audience Reach The number of adults 15+ who listen to at least five minutes of radio in a 15 minute period during a week.

Audience Share Amount of listening hours to a particular radio station as a percentage of all radio listening within that station's Total Survey Area.

Bit-rates The rate at which digital information is carried within a specified communication channel.

Broadband A service or connection generally defined as being "always on" and providing a bandwidth greater than 128kbit/s.

Coders The devices which convert a signal in one form into another, digital form. The input may be an analogue signal or it may be a digital signal coded in a form other than that desired for the particular purpose of communication required. In digital radio, the term generally refers to the devices which produce a digital sound programme service in a form suitable for acceptance by a multiplexer, which combines it with the other services for transmission as a single, combined complex signal (see also Multiplex). A particular feature of these digital radio coders is that they seek to avoid sending information that is calculated not to be needed to recreate the sound in the receiver, thereby to require less capacity (bit-rate) in the multiplex transmission. However, the more that information is taken away from the signal, the greater the probability of imperfect reproduction of sound by the receiver.

COFDM Coded Orthogonal Frequency Division Multiplexing. COFDM has been designed to combat the effects of multipath interference for mobile receivers

Communications Act The Communications Act 2003. The majority of the radio-related provisions came into force on 29 December 2003.

Co-regulation The sharing of regulation between a statutory body (e.g. Ofcom) and its licensees.

CRCA Commercial Radio Companies Association

DAB Digital Audio Broadcasting.

DCMS Department for Culture, Media and Sport

DRDB Digital Radio Development Bureau

DRM Digital Radio Mondiale.

DTT Digital Terrestrial Television

EBITDA Earnings Before Interest, Tax, Depreciation and Amortisation.

Ex ante Before an event takes place.

FCC Federal Communications Commission (US regulatory body)

FM Frequency Modulation - type of modulation produced by varying the frequency of a radio signal. This is the type of modulation used by broadcasters in part of the VHF (Very High Frequency) band, known as VHF Band 2.

Format The type of programme service broadcast by radio stations. Also, the part of a radio station's licence which describes the programme service.

IBA Independent Broadcasting Authority

ILR Independent Local Radio – the former name for local commercial radio in the UK.

Internet A global network of networks, using a common set of standards (e.g. the Internet Protocol), accessed by users with a computer via a service provider.

ITC Independent Television Commission, one of the regulators replaced by Ofcom in 2003.

ITU – R International Telecommunications Union – Radiocommunications Sector. The ITU is an organ of the United Nations established by treaty. The Radiocommunications Sector manages spectrum use and associated standards worldwide, including by setting the frameworks within which individual countries control interferences across national boundaries.

L-Band A name given to a range of frequencies 1452 to 1492 MHz also known as the 1.5 GHz Band.

MCA Measured Coverage Area. The area in which signal levels meet or exceed Ofcom's stated criteria for defining coverage.

MF Medium Frequency. The part of the spectrum between 300 kHz and 3000 kHz. The broadcast part of this band (531 kHz to 1602 kHz) is often known as the medium wave (MW) or AM band (see AM above).

Multiplex A number of signals or streams of information transmitted at the same time in the form of a single, complex signal. The separate signals are then recovered by the receiver.

MW See MF and AM above.

MPEG 2 Layer 2 An audio compression standard which uses spectral masking techniques to remove redundant information.

Ofcom Office of Communications. The regulator for the communications industries, created by the Communications Act.

Peaktime The period during which a radio station broadcasts its breakfast show and, on weekdays only, also its afternoon drive-time show.

RAB Radio Advertising Bureau

Radio Authority The statutory body responsible for the licensing of regulation of non-BBC radio between 1990 and 2003. It was one of the bodies replaced by Ofcom.

RAJAR Radio Joint Audience Research. The pan-industry body which measures radio listening.

RSL Restricted Service Licence. A radio licence serving a single site (e.g. a hospital or university campus) or serving a wider area on a temporary basis (e.g. for festivals and events).

Scrolling text facilities The feature of digital radios which enables broadcaster-compiled text to be displayed. Limitations on physical space on the display leads to the messages being scrolled across the display so that they can be read.

Simulcasting The broadcasting of a programme service on more than one transmission technology (e.g. FM and MW, DAB and FM)

T-DAB Terrestrial Digital Audio Broadcasting

Transmitter An electronic device used to convert signals into radio waves and subsequently amplify them so that they can be radiated from an aerial. The term is sometimes also used to include the cable and aerial, and indeed the whole electrical, electronic and physical system at the site of the transmitter.

TSA Total Survey Area. The coverage area within which a radio station's audience is measured by RAJAR.

VHF Very High Frequency. The part of the spectrum between 30 MHz and 300 MHz. FM radio is broadcast on part of this band (87.6 MHz to 107.9 MHz) and DAB digital radio is broadcast on another (Band III: 217.5 MHz to 230 MHz in the UK, and over a wider range, but shared with TV services, elsewhere in Europe).

Wireless LAN Short-range wireless technologies using any type of 802.11 standard such as 802.11b or 802.11a. These technologies allow an over-the-air connection between a wireless client and a base station, or between two wireless clients.