

Arqiva Submission: Ofcom Consultation Local radio licence renewal - request from Sunrise Radio to add its Greater London AM licence to the list of “approved licences”

Arqiva welcomes the opportunity to respond to the Ofcom consultation on Local radio licence renewal - request from Sunrise Radio to add its Greater London AM licence to the list of “approved licences”.

Arqiva is a communications, infrastructure and media services company at the heart of the broadcast and utilities sectors in the UK. We deliver broadcast television and radio services nationally and provide satellite data and gateway services. We also provide machine-to-machine connectivity for smart metering and other utilities communications requirements within the energy and water sectors.

Set out below is our response to the consultation questions.

Response to consultation questions

Question

Do you agree with our Preliminary View to approve Sunrise Radio’s request for its London AM licence to be added to the list of “approved licences”? Please provide evidence in support of your views.

Arqiva agrees with Ofcom’s Preliminary View to approve Sunrise Radio’s request for its London AM licence to be added to the list of “approved licences”.

Arqiva recognises that Ofcom has already approved the eight Greater London licences which allow for broadcasting on FM for the purposes of becoming national services on DAB and seeking licence renewal on that basis. We agree with the position stated by Ofcom that there is no apparent reason why any of the Greater London licences which allow for broadcasting on AM should be treated differently for this purpose.

We also agree with the point stated by Ofcom that as the service is already broadcasting to London on AM, as well as nationally on DAB, we feel that approving the request is unlikely to adversely impact London listeners.

We believe that for the reasons above the approval of the licence would be consistent with Ofcom’s relevant policy rationale and objectives.

Arqiva supports the approval of the request to add the Greater London AM licence held by Sunrise Radio (London) Ltd to the list of “approved licences”.



About Arqiva

Arqiva is at the heart of the broadcast and utilities sectors in the UK and beyond, providing critical communications infrastructure and media services. Arqiva is the only national provider of terrestrial television and radio broadcasting and provides a machine-to-machine connectivity network for smart metering and other uses within the utilities sector.

Arqiva's history can be traced back to 1922 when it broadcast the world's first national radio service. In 1936 it carried the BBC's first television broadcast. In 1978 it enabled Europe's first satellite TV test. By the 1990s Arqiva was working with the UK's mobile operators to bring mobile telecommunications to UK businesses and consumers. In this decade we also launched the UK's national DAB radio and Digital Terrestrial Television networks. Most recently, Arqiva has played a pioneering role in the roll-out of the national smart energy and water metering networks.

Arqiva was a founder member of Freeview, YouView and Digital Radio UK (DRUK). Freeview is the largest TV platform in the UK delivering over 100 TV and Radio channels to the UK public. Arqiva owns and operates the networks for all of the Freeview multiplex licence holders and is the licence holder for two of the national DTT multiplexes. DRUK has worked previously to promote digital radio via liaison with the UK supply chain, business-to-business and consumer marketing. We are also a member of WorldDAB.

We are a shareholder and operator for both commercial national DAB radio multiplexes and transmission provider for the BBC national DAB radio multiplex. We also provide end-to-end transmission services for analogue and digital radio networks for customers including the BBC, Global Radio, Bauer Media and Wireless as well as other independent radio groups.

Through our wholly owned subsidiaries Arqiva operates 25 local DAB digital radio multiplexes. These multiplexes cover a number of regions of the UK, predominantly in the Midlands, South West and the south of England.

Our major customers include the BBC, Bauer Media, Global Radio, Wireless, ITV, Channel 4, Five, Sky, UKTV, QVC, GB News and Al Jazeera Networks.

Arqiva is owned by a consortium of infrastructure investors and has its headquarters in Hampshire, with major UK offices in London, Buckinghamshire and Yorkshire and operational centres in the Midlands and Scotland.