

Name: Martin Davies

Representing: Self

### **What are your comments on these proposals?**

I would fiercely oppose the abandonment of the medium and long wave bands. A lady from Virgin on BBC radio 4's You & Yours today said that FM gives much better audio quality than AM, which is true and that AM is outdated technology. However she probably lives in London. If she lived in rural Mid Wales like me, she would find that it's not always easy to get a signal on FM (or DAB). Surely 198 LW is too good a channel to abandon. Where all else fails there is always a good strong signal on 198LW. Likewise on MW signals can be heard from much further afield and is a must for use in-car in this area. Try travelling between Newtown Powys and Aberystwyth while following a play on Radio 4 FM .There is not much mention made of DRM. If it is as good as it is said to be, I would have no objection to LW & MW stations being converted one by one to DRM, but to abandon the LF and MF sectors of the radio spectrum completely is a definite no, no as far as I am concerned.

It is often said that DAB has provided much more choice. True it has provided a greater number of stations and BBC7 is excellent (this coming from someone brought up on Radio Caroline and the like is no faint praise !). However the greater number of stations on DAB does not mean greater choice as most of the music stations seem to be fighting for the same territory. Where is the country music station, where is the rock n'roll, where is the variety ? Saga was excellent, but somehow went out of business. I own a Worldspace digital satellite radio and have access to "The Hop" (great 50's & 60's american music), "UPcountry" ( including 2 hours of Bluegrass music repeated about 6 times a week - when is Bluegrass music ever heard on DAB ?), "Orbit Classic Rock", NPR (icluding Dan Ackroyd's Blues Show at the weekend, Marian Mc Partland's piano jazz from New York and a vintage jazz show - great stuff). CNN radio, and lots more.

What do we get on Dab? - lots of local stations playing Oasis, Dire Straits and Tina Turner over and over again in between traffic reports. To summarise please do not abandon LW & MW. Replacing AM with DRM would (I think) be ok. but struggling with weak FM reception and bending my FM whip when I'm working outside would not be very good. Please provide a greater variety of output on DAB.