

NRSC SEEKS CRITICAL LISTENING VOLUNTEERS AND INPUT ON FIELD TEST SITES FOR DAB

The National Radio Systems Committee (NRSC), in conjunction with the Electronic Industries Association (EIA) is currently testing seven digital audio broadcast (DAB) systems at the DAB Test Facility in Cleveland, Ohio. Evaluation of the four in-band, on-channel DAB systems will be performed by the NRSC based on these laboratory tests and subsequent field tests of these systems.

This test and evaluation process presents several opportunities for radio broadcasters and engineers to participate in the development of this important new radio broadcast technology. First, broadcasters can participate by taking part in the NRSC DAB Subcommittee. The NRSC DAB Subcommittee meets about every other month, usually in Washington, DC. The next meeting is scheduled for May 11, 1994, at NAB Headquarters in Washington, DC. If you are interested in participating in this work, contact John Marino at NAB at (202) 429-5391.

Another opportunity to participate is open to individuals with critical listening ability. Several volunteers with expert ears are needed to evaluate the audio quality of the DAB systems. These audio quality evaluations will be performed at the Canadian Department of Communication's Communication Research Center (CRC) in Ottawa, Canada. The CRC has put together a state-of-the-art, computer controlled listening environment in its labs in Ottawa. Two groups of volunteers are needed: individuals who can spend one week in Ottawa performing overall quality evaluations, and other individuals who can spend two days in Ottawa performing audio impairment assessments.

Opportunities are available from late May throughout the summer, but volunteers must pay their own expenses to travel to Ottawa. Interested individuals should contact Ken Springer at NAB at (202) 429-5341.

The NRSC DAB Subcommittee has formed a Field Test Task Group to plan and oversee field tests of the DAB systems. This group is now developing a list of candidate field test sites for these tests, which will take place later this year or in spring 1995. Sites should be able to accommodate three FM IBOC DAB signals, one IBOC AM DAB signal, as well as an FM adjacent channel DAB signal. Ideally, sites should provide signal coverage to mountainous rural, suburban, and urban areas with tall buildings. Anyone with recommendations for field test sites meeting these criteria can contact Ken Springer at NAB at (202) 429-5341.

Finally, the NRSC invites interested parties to participate in the DAB process by contributing to the NRSC IBOC DAB test expenses. Organizations interested in contributing funds to the NRSC process can contact Ken Springer at (202) 429-5341.

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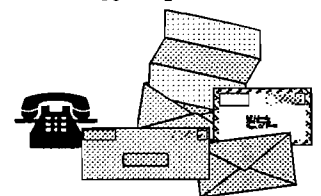
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