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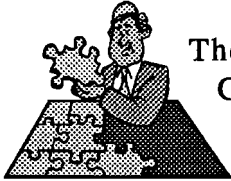
Radio TechCheck



The weekly newsfax for RADIO broadcast engineers

JULY 4, 1994

NRSC PLANS DAB FIELD TESTS FOR SAN FRANCISCO



The National Radio Systems Committee (NRSC) DAB Subcommittee Field Test Task Group met on June 30 to continue planning field tests of DAB systems. The Task Group tentatively agreed to conduct field tests in the San Francisco area. The field tests will be used to supplement and confirm the results of laboratory tests scheduled for completion by the end of the year.

The Field Test Task Group is organizing and coordinating field tests for DAB systems being evaluated by the NRSC DAB Subcommittee and the EIA DAR Subcommittee. The NRSC is evaluating four in-band, on-channel (IBOC) systems in the AM and FM bands. The EIA is evaluating one in-band, adjacent channel system for the FM band, one system in the 1452-1492 MHz band, and a satellite DAB system operating in the S-band.

The San Francisco area was selected as a preferred venue for the tests because it presents a good variety of propagation challenges for a DAB system. Currently, the Task Group is considering broadcasting the signals from Mt. Beacon in Marin County, north of San Francisco. Field tests will evaluate the DAB systems' ability to deliver signals to fixed and mobile receivers in dense urban, suburban, and hilly or mountainous areas. Tests will also evaluate the DAB signals' ability to penetrate buildings and provide reliable reception.

Among the details still to be determined are the schedule, the number of sites, and the test procedures to be used. The Field Test Working Group will continue regular meetings throughout the summer to determine these details and prepare for tests which should occur in early 1995.

Anyone interested in participating in the work of the Field Test Task Group should contact Ken Springer at (202) 429-5341 or chairman of the task group, Bert Goldman at (602) 264-0108.

NRSC Considers Changes to RBDS to Incorporate Differential GPS

The NRSC met in Chicago on June 23 and discussed changes to the Radio Broadcast Data Systems (RBDS) standard. The Committee considered a proposal to modify the standard to incorporate format codes for differential global positioning system (DGPS) transmissions. DGPS transmissions contain differential correction codes to improve the accuracy of GPS receivers.

The Committee agreed to complete a draft revision of the standard which includes DGPS by September. The aim is to coordinate the DGPS revisions with similar revisions proposed for inclusion within RDS in Europe. DGPS offers a potential source of revenue for radio broadcasters who lease capacity on their RBDS subcarrier to companies transmitting these signals.

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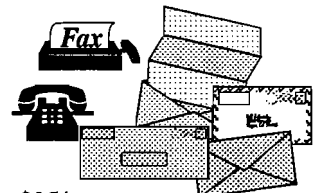
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