

Official News Release from NASB, May 2009.

NASB Urges Development of Simple, Inexpensive DRM Receivers

At its 2009 annual meeting in Nashville, Tennessee on May 8, the National Association of Shortwave Broadcasters (NASB) adopted a resolution encouraging radio receiver manufacturers “to develop and produce as a high priority simple to operate, inexpensive DRM receivers.”

The NASB resolution applauded the efforts of the DRM Consortium and manufacturers for introducing several models of excellent receivers to the market, but it added “many of the currently available receivers are priced beyond what the market can bear in Africa, Asia, and other countries outside North America and Europe.” Therefore, asserted the NASB, “there is an urgent need for the availability in the marketplace of simple to operate, inexpensive DRM HF/MW capable receivers.”

Allan McGuirl Jr. of Galcom International, a Canadian company that makes fix-tuned shortwave receivers for many religious broadcasters, announced at the same meeting that its engineers are working to develop a low-cost, no frills DRM receiver, although no details are available yet.

Adil Mina of Continental Electronics gave a general update on DRM and the receiver situation at the joint meeting of the NASB and the DRM USA group. Technical consultant Dr. Donald Messer gave the group an overview of the propagation experiments that he plans to undertake with the Digital Aurora Radio Technologies regional DRM project in Alaska. And amateur radio operator Mel Whitten explained how ham operators have adopted a form of digital modulation using a program called WinDRM that is based on DRM technology.

In other news from the NASB annual meeting, Brady Murray, Operations Director of shortwave station WWCR in Nashville, was elected to the NASB Board of Directors, replacing retiring board member Charles Caudill, president of World Christian Broadcasting, which operates shortwave station KNLS in Alaska. WWCR and World Christian Broadcasting jointly hosted the NASB meeting in Nashville. Jeff White of Radio Miami International was re-elected president of the NASB, and Mike Adams of Far East Broadcasting Co. was re-elected vice president.

The Association gave a special award for lifetime achievement in shortwave broadcasting to George Woodard, former director of engineering for Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty and the U.S. International Broadcasting Bureau.

Adrian Peterson, International Relations Coordinator of Adventist World Radio, announced that as of June 2009, AWR will be closing its production studios in Singapore due to rising costs. AWR's DX program “Wavescan” was produced in Singapore, but as of June it will be transferred to the United States under an agreement with WRMI in Miami, which will handle production and distribution of the program to the AWR worldwide network.

Two Tennessee-based manufacturers of radio equipment gave presentations at the NASB meeting. Gary Barbour of Ten-Tec talked about his company's HF receivers; and Tom King, president of Kintronic Labs, showed examples of shortwave and mediumwave antenna systems that Kintronic has built for stations in various countries around the world.

During their conference, NASB delegates visited the Nashville-area facilities of WWCR and World Christian Broadcasting. They heard about how the recent political developments in Madagascar have affected the progress of WCB's new shortwave station Madagascar World Voice. The organization's president, Charles Caudill, said the civil disruptions following a recent coup d'etat in Madagascar have set back work on the station somewhat, but that the project will continue as planned.

Michael Murray, former Secretary-General of the European DX Council, spoke about the state of shortwave broadcasting and listening in Europe. Bruce Baskin, producer of a weekly program called World Baseball Today on WRMI, talked about sports programming on shortwave radio. Charles Jacobson of the HCJB Global Technology Center in Indiana updated participants on the gradual dismantlement of HCJB's legendary shortwave transmitter site in Pifo, Ecuador. Ted Collora of Hansen Professional Services, summarized his company's engineering projects at U.S. International Broadcasting Bureau facilities around the world.

Next year's NASB and DRM USA annual meetings will take place in Canada. Galcom International will host the meetings in Hamilton, Ontario on May 20 and 21, 2010. Miami is being considered as the possible location of the 2011 annual meetings.