

Minutes of the Eleventh General Assembly

6th February 2017, EBU, Geneva

Members Present in Geneva

Cas Adriani, Pluxbox
Dennis Laupman, PLuxbox
Nicolas Bresou, RTBF
Laurent FInet, RTBF
Ben Poor, Global Radio
Andy Buckingham, RadioDNS
Beat Matter, SRG SSR
John Farrell, Frontier Silicon
Joe D'Angelo, DTS
David Layer, NAB
Walter Huijten, NPO
Floris Daelemans, VRT
Nick Piggott, RadioDNS
Mathias Coinchon, SRG SSR (joined at 15:05)
Sean O'Halpin, BBC (departed at 16:15)

Members Present on Telephone Conference

Alan Jurison, iHeartMedia
Heiko Meertz, Tune In GmbH
Alex Erk, IRT
Florian Franz, BMW

Minutes

1. Welcome

The meeting started at 14:36.

Floris welcomed everybody and introductions were made around the room and on the telephone conference.

We welcomed the members who had joined since the last General Assembly; BMW, Audi, Radioplayer, TuneIn, iHeartMedia and tdf.

2. Approval of Minutes and Accounts

The minutes of the 10th General Assembly were approved by the meeting: 9 in room, 1 on phone.

The 2016 Accounts were approved by the meeting: 9 in room, 1 on phone

3. Steering Board 2016 Activities

The Activities and Decisions of the Steering Board were presented to the meeting.

The decisions of the Steering Board in 2016 were approved by the meeting: 11 in the room, 2 on the telephone conference, 6 proxy votes

4. Steering Board Elections

Election of the Chair

One nominee: Walter Huijten (NPO)
Elected: 11 in the room, 8 proxy votes

Election of the Secretary

One nominee: Ben Poor (Global Radio)
Elected: 11 in the room, 8 proxy votes

Election of 9 Steering Board Members

Nine nominees: Travis Baxter (Bauer Media), Nicolas Bresou (RTBF), Kath Brown (CRA), Joe D'Angelo (DTS), Alex Erk (IRT for ARD), John Farrell (Frontier Silicon), David Layer (NAB), Sean O'Halpin (BBC), Christian Winter (Audi)
All elected: 11 in the room, 8 proxy votes

A coffee break was held at 15:05 - 15:30

5. 2017 Plans and Discussion

Nick presented the 2017 plans, and they were discussed by those present during the presentation.

Discussion: Project Logo

JF - How extensive is the availability of URLs for IP streaming?

NP - Most, but not all, existing broadcasters are providing URLs

JF - What's the split of hybrid information between FM and DAB services?

NP - Most broadcasters provide hybrid info equitably between FM and DAB. As far as we know, only ARD stations don't signal FM hybrid.

DL - How are the coverage figures worked?

NP - We calculate coverage based on the share of listening that has hybrid services, as we think that's more realistic for listener experience than counting stations.

Discussion: US Strategy

JD - What's the US strategy? What are RadioDNS' objectives?

NP - Lots of activities aimed at connecting and communicating with US broadcasters. We don't have any commercial objectives in the US.

Discussion: NextRadio as a potential source of RadioDNS data in the US

JF - Is there more RadioDNS could be doing in the US?

DL - If a broadcaster is contracted to NextRadio, they're not prevented from using RadioDNS, are they? It would be efficient to use NextRadio to output two formats, not have to have two different systems.

AJ - It would require NextRadio/ Tagstation to cooperate to make that possible. They have teased that capability for RadioDNS output, but that hasn't materialised.

DL - What about stations not using NextRadio?

JD - There aren't many of those.

AJ - If TagStation/NextRadio were to enable free to all participating stations, it would help smaller broadcasters. It could be a benefit to enable that RadioDNS output without a lot of effort. Lots of b/casters rely on middleware providers (Jump2Go etc.) to do projects like this.

NP - We can provide assistance and hook up developers to make it as easy as possible.

JF - Can we just use the NextRadio feed?

NP - No, it's proprietary, we'd need to do a licence with them.

Discussion: EBU Platform

WH - How available is the EBU platform commercial broadcasters? It might make it easier to get commercial broadcasters on-board?

MC - EBU in principle should not commit resources to non-members, but it's very easy to create entries for non-EBU members. It's a cloud service, it's not data heavy. The problem is more in helping them getting set up, which is a person time problem. The idea was to rely more on third

parties to provide the service. Super users can create users (SwissMedia Partners). Maybe a small free in the future. Second possibility was to offer the source code - most of it is open source code, but the cloud deployment code is not.

WH - So it's more a person/education time requirement?

MC - Yes.

DL - There isn't a revenue stream for commercial stations at the moment, so it's not a focus for them.

MC - There's no SLA on the EBU platform

WH - We should talk with BP to do more with the platform.

BP - it's a useful platform for driving adoption, but it shouldn't be a burden on EBU resources for non-members.

NB - How do we promote the system on the receiver side?

NP - It's the perennial chicken / egg problem. We're working to grow the broadcaster side, and get more content. Some manufacturers are disappointed with amount of content available.

NB - it would be good if we could be a source of information to other aggregators.

JF - Manufacturers have provided home receivers for quite a while (5 years). The emphasis needs to be on content because when products came to market there was not enough RadioVIS content available.

CW - it's easier for a broadcaster to use the EBU platform than it is for a manufacturer to justify a whole hybrid radio project with no content. There must be at least some coverage.

NB - What content are we talking about? Basic content - name, stream, logo. It would be good to get more RadioVIS.

JD - I agree. We sit between broadcasters and car companies, and the challenge we see is that if all hybrid radio is delivering is station logo and streaming URL, it's not enough value to consumers and it's not enough value for manufacturers. There is an obligation for broadcasters to provide more content and functionality. Gracenote launched a product that is an "overlay" to radio to make it "hybrid", which is not controlled by broadcasters, and has extra content, not provided by broadcasters. We need better solutions to make radio really dynamic. Needs to go beyond music, the unique content.

NP - We need to be sensitive about how RadioDNS looks about being blunt about "do or be done to"

MC - The time effort is about trust and keeping things up to date; for example, registrations must be validated.

NP - Is the US focus right? Asia? Japan?

JD - It'll be challenging in local timeframe for policies and politics. Canada could be the North American strategy through RadioPlayer? China is the market that automotive wants - 21m cars a year, and is the only automotive growth market. It's a relatively consolidated radio market. Getting basic services in China would be of interest. DTS hasn't spent a lot of time getting into China, but probably worth having a look.

CW - it's really hard. China radio market isn't really standardised, not much RDS use. It's a very difficult market, because there is not much standards adherence.

NP - We could totem pole some places in China - Beijing, Shanghai, Hong Kong?

JD - Would we get in on the NAB sessions in China (DL?)

DL - I know the engineer looking after China Digital Radio.

NP - We have provision for national delegation under radiodns.org. Is there a risk that China

might create radiodns.cn?

JF - We need to think about data quality measurement, as well as coverage; for example, validating SPI documents, etc. We've found problems when pulling SPI documents are using old versions, or non compliant documents.

BP - Maybe it's worth doing a single sweep of a quality of data assessment. I don't think it's RadioDNS responsibility to police the quality of data, but it might be useful to have a view on how well people are doing now.

NP - We will make the T&D platform also capable of testing broadcaster implementations.

Discussion: Standard Metadata Licence

JD - How frequently must the licence be checked?

NP - It ought to be checked as frequently as the SI file that it's signalled in, which is up to the broadcaster to decide.

DL - Manufacturers have never asked for permission to use the audio broadcast by radio stations? Why is metadata a problem?

JD - It's really about the copyrighted logos, because the audio is covered by licences issued by rights organisations. Automotive want security about the rights to use the logo etc.

SOH - Manufacturers want an assurance that they're not breaking copyright

DL - Is it just logos?

SOH - No, it can be any broadcaster created content.

JD - How is this different DAB / HD metadata, where this is coming via the Internet?

SOH - Broadcasters aren't that happy about the way aggregators are acquiring content either.

FD - For example, an aggregator was still showing my show name, which hasn't been correct since 2012.

DL - Is the distinction the persistence of data? Audio is only ephemeral - but with pause features.

NO - Explained the logos display situation with a manufacturer, and how we sorted that out with staying within the licence

WH - The proposed RadioDNS licence covers basic use cases, but doesn't prevent bespoke bilateral agreements. Contact details can be provided in SI document for Service Provider.

JD - What's the deal with third party images / album art? Will the broadcaster explicitly provide warranty for the content they're providing? Licenses are needed for album art providers in the US. Is there an explicit licence for using the logos?

SOH - Broadcasters would have to have responsibility about the content they push to receivers, including making sure the licences they hold allow that use.

Discussion: Test & Demonstration environment

AB - explained the testing process

NP - explained plan to provide platform testing

MC - Potential for link to ETSI standardisation - reference implementation.

NP - It's a possibility.

AB - It could be used to provide entirely automated testing of things to fix in a platform.

MC - This is potentially better than self-certification

BP - Is there any wisdom for having a reference RadioVIS platform?

AB - That's pretty much what T&D offers now - a reference RadioVIS platform.

MC - Libraries and tools for RadioDNS would be helpful? Bigger component blocks to build services with.

BP - It would be helpful to point implementers to high quality feeds of RadioDNS content to test with.

CW - A live service would certainly be helpful.

NP - In the testing platform, we have a "Demonstration" part, which is a continuous loop of audio and content.

AE - left the meeting at 16:50

Discussion: Membership 2017

FD - Is the NAB Radio Show more relevant than the general show?

JD - If our objective is support and advocacy by focusing on Canada, would going to NABA be a better idea than NAB Radio Show.

DL - very few NABA events. The spring NAB show is best because of sheer volume. The NAB Radio Show is smaller (3-4k attendees), is less technical and more sales and programming.

DL - Will make a list of potential China events, maybe NAB Shanghai.

JD / NP - look at WorldDAB / DTS list of Chinese events.

Discussion: Budget 2017

FD presented the 2017 budget. The membership fee increased by 10%, mainly offset to members by the falling value of the GBP.

Discussion: Devices 2017

DL - How does the LG Stylus handset support RadioDNS?

NP - There's a specific API for that handset, which allows for RadioDNS support.

DL - Does it support analogue FM?

MC - The Stylus 2 had two separate tuners. Guess that it will continue to have FM as part of the BroadCom chipset

SOH - On the subject of OMRI and USRP. What's our position on those projects?

NP - We offer help to whomever asks us, equitably.

Close

WH - Thanked the departing Secretary and Chair for their services over the last couple of years.

Meeting closed at 17:20