
RadioDNS Steering Board Elections 2021/22

Nominee Statements

These statements have been provided directly by the nominees.

Laurence Harrison - Radioplayer

I work for broadcaster-backed, non-profit organisation Radioplayer as the Director of Automotive Partnerships, leading the work with car manufacturers, Tier 1's and technology suppliers to help develop world-class hybrid radio experiences. Radioplayer has been a proud member of RadioDNS since 2016, is an active supporter of RadioDNS standards and hybrid radio, and is also currently a member of the RadioDNS Technology Committee.

I have been working in digital radio for over 20 years and previously worked for Digital Radio UK, working with car manufacturers to encourage the take-up of DAB as standard. For the last 5 years I Chaired of the WorldDAB Automotive Group, leading the research and development of the WorldDAB in-car UX guidelines and engagement with major car manufacturers.

RadioDNS open standards play a vital role in enabling a fantastic hybrid radio experience in-car that can be developed and built upon collaboratively by the whole industry. The work that RadioDNS does has never been more important for the development of hybrid radio in car dashboards and, if successful, I welcome the opportunity to contribute to that work and strategy of the organisation through the Steering Board.

Bob Heads - Frontier Smart Technologies

I am the joint managing director and head of engineering for Frontier Smart Technologies. We develop broadcast and hybrid radio technologies for the consumer audio market, and have a very large market share in this space. I have been head of engineering for Frontier for more than 15 years, and I am familiar with most of the technologies in this market sector. I have had a passion for hybrid radio technologies, since we started developing connected audio technologies and products in 2006. Frontier has shipped over 6 million hybrid radio devices. I believe that the future of broadcast radio devices is the integration of IP based radio technologies and broadcast technologies into a single platform, and Frontier are investing significantly in this space. I also believe that in order to make hybrid radio technologies ubiquitous, widespread adoption of international standards such as RadioDNS is essential.

Customers of Frontier Smart Technologies include most of the major consumer audio brands in the world, such as Sony, Panasonic, Denon and Harman JBL, so I will be able to bring the perspective of these key brands into the RadioDNS organisation.

Walter Huijten - NPO

Walter Huijten is Service Manager Radio at NPO (Netherlands Public Broadcasting) within the Technology and Distribution department. He is responsible for key systems and metadata management in the radio production and distribution chain.

In 2012 NPO started publishing its metadata through RadioDNS and in 2013 became a member. Walter has been serving on the Steering Boards since his first election that same year.

Walter's motivation for applying once more: "I am very happy that our work within RadioDNS has proved successful in the advancement of Hybrid Radio services especially in the automotive environment. There remains a lot to be done in the domain of metadata quality and Broadcaster engagement with the automotive industry partners. That is what I plan to focus on in the coming two years."

Maximillian Knop - Konsole Labs

I have been working for radio stations for over 25 years. Early on, I tried to use software to improve radio for listeners and producers.

It's now 11 years since we came to the market with the first radio apps. And a lot has happened since then: Audio Push Service, Visual Radio and the Hybrid Radio EU project are some examples of our work at Konsole Labs.

But I believe that we are still a long way from our goal and that we must continue to support radio so that it finds its place on every new platform.

I hope that I can contribute to this and strengthen RadioDNS as a service.

David Layer - NAB

I am vice president, advanced engineering in NAB's Technology department and have been with NAB since 1995 focusing primarily on the radio technology and standards setting area. I've had the privilege to serve on the RadioDNS Steering Board in 2010, 2017 and 2018 and have served as chair for the last two years (2019 and 2020). Our organization is pursuing important work right now and I am eager to continue as chair and do my best to help move these projects forward. I am also eager to work with RadioDNS to increase the US broadcaster participation rate and increase the number of RadioDNS member companies.

Badri Munipalla - NPR (PRSS)

Badri Munipalla leads PRSS's Technology department and ensures reliable content delivery to all interconnected public radio stations. He oversees daily Operations, Audio Engineering and Software Development departments and all the ongoing technology improvements and modernizing efforts in those functional areas. In his last role, Badri served as the Director of Software Development responsible for maintaining PRSS's flagship product ContentDepot. He also spearheaded a multi-year initiative to replace the broadcast automation software used by internal network operators during this time. Before joining PRSS, Badri worked as a consultant for top financial institutions on a range of projects from system ports to complex initiatives involving large scale software development.

PRSS network distributes thousands of hours of news, music, and specialized audience programming to public radio stations in the United States every year. Our organization is committed to looking for ways to facilitate and enable technologies, such as RadioDNS, to allow content producers and radio stations to collaboratively improve the quality and delivery of meta-data to our radio listeners.

Ben Poor - EBU

I am a founding member of RadioDNS and have been involved in its development from the very start. Having worked on many of the core specifications and implementations, I am currently chair of the RadioDNS Technical Group and have been the RadioDNS Secretary during the current Steering Board.

I currently work within the European Broadcasting Union as Project Manager for Digital Radio within their Technology and Innovation department, helping EBU members develop and implement digital and hybrid radio strategies. I am also responsible for the tools and services that the EBU provides to its members to help them manage their hybrid radio presence.

I am standing for the Steering Board as I believe that Hybrid Radio is becoming more and more important for our members and the industry in general. The EBU is a vocal supporter of open standards for Hybrid Radio and helped form the organization. We recommend to our members that they ensure that a hybrid radio experience is enabled through open standards for their audiences, and I intend to continue to represent our members within the organization.

Dave Walters - BBC

Dave Walters is Head of Product for Audio in the BBC's Design + Engineering team. He has worked in Student, Commercial and Public Service Broadcasting for thirty years. His work has ranged from building and maintaining studio estates, managing DAB multiplexes, mentoring Students and occasional academic lecturing. Today his work is focused on designing new flexible production spaces, migrating estates to virtual and AoIP environments and creating Studio API's to allow machine learning to segment, transcribe and tag content in near real time, to create the best described audio in the world. Data is the future of our industry and how we link and join content to audiences in a seamless way across multiple platforms is key. Dave has been on the RadioDNS board for a number of years supporting the work to bring open standards for broadcasters and manufacturers to our industry and would love to continue.

Christian Winter - Audi AG

Christian Winter has a master of engineering degree in media technology and works as a product owner and development engineer at the Car.SW Org - a Volkswagen Group company. His work on Hybrid Radio projects started in 2010 with evaluation of the IMDA and RadioDNS specifications for the Institut für Rundfunktechnik. The work continued at the AUDI AG pre development department which led to the first car with Hybrid Radio the Audi A8 in 2017. Since then he worked on the rollout of Hybrid Radio to new markets like the United States and to new cars in the Audi and Porsche product line. This work continues with the move to Car.SW Org with the responsibility for Hybrid Radio functions for the whole Volkswagen group.

John Vermeer - iHeartMedia

In my role as EVP of Digital Distribution and Platform Partnerships, I oversee strategic relationships across the automotive industry on behalf of iHeartMedia, the largest broadcaster in the United States. This includes broadcast delivery of radio content as well as distribution of the iHeartRadio app via embedded, projected and voice-assisted integrations across virtually every automotive manufacturer and supplier. I believe that the thoughtful merger of these technologies presents a significant opportunity to strengthen the relationship between the radio and automotive industries and view the RadioDNS open-source standard as an important building block in this effort. I would be pleased to serve on the RadioDNS Steering Board and believe the relationships and insights I bring to the table are well-suited to helping to shape the strategic direction and to contribute to the continued growth of the organization.