

Minutes of the 19th General Assembly

The presentation slides for this event are available to Members on request

Attendees

Nick Piggott (RadioDNS)
Ben Poor (EBU)
Badri Munipalla (NPR)
Dave Walters (BBC)
Laurence Harrison (Radioplayer)
Kirk Nesbitt (Rogers)
David Layer (NAB)
David Holroyd (Global)
Fergus Mellon (TuneIn)
Christian Winter (CARIAD)
Walter Huitjen (NPO)
Neil Bingham (Frontier)
Ralph Hogan (IEEE BTS)
Adriano Pitteri (SRG SSR)

Welcome and Introductions:

NP introduced everyone in the room and online
Badri was proposed and elected as chair of the meeting.

Members' Business:

Approved by vote the minutes of the 18th General Assembly

Ben Poor presented the financial review and accounts for 2024, which have been produced by an independent accounting firm.

Approved by vote the Accounts for 2024

Review of RadioDNS

Members were reminded of the role of the Steering Board, whose legal purpose is to represent the members' interests and oversee the Project Office. Practically, the Steering Board meets 5 times a year to review strategy and agree proposals/activities from the Technical Group and Project Office that develop that strategy.

Nick introduced the Project Office team and explained how RadioDNS operates on a day-to-day basis.

He then gave a review of why RadioDNS started and the development into the organisation it is now. There was a brief discussion on the broadcasters and manufacturers that are using the standards, with a special mention to Audi. It was recognised that one of the first points of contact with broadcasters is when they see their station logo is wrong in cars.

As well as solving problems, we want RadioDNS to also be innovative, and as apps in cars are developing we see this as the next development for RadioDNS.

Nick also talked about the value of the Automotive Workshops, organised with WorldDAB as well as the EBU connected car playbook. He also explained that RadioDNS standards will be able to link live radio to broadcaster apps and this will be demonstrated at NAB. He also explained that using RadioDNS also helps make voice assistants work correctly.

He summarised that there is a consistency in the concept of combining broadcast and IP using technical standards and the concept that started some years ago is still valid now.

Ben, Badri and Laurence echoed the value and benefits of RadioDNS. Nick added that broadcasters should "agree on technology and compete on content".

RadioDNS in 2024

Through presence at events RadioDNS can educate and inform. During the year we attended events such as Radiodays Europe, Autotech Detroit and the NAB Show, as well as Nick speaking at ABU DBS and WorldDAB events.

Nick explained how the Automotive Workshops work and how important they are to help find immediate fixes for current problems for both broadcasters and manufacturers. The value of both in-person and online meetings was discussed - we find that interaction is very effective in the longer in-person meetings, but we have the online meetings bring in a much larger number of attendees.

RadioDNS and WorldDAB have developed the User Experience Guidelines, which are very useful, but need to be more accessible. They will be rewritten to look like brand guidelines rather than a technical document.

Ben Poor, chair of the Technical Group, reviewed the technical groups activities, starting with a reminder that we require that all attendees must abide by our IPR policy, which minimises the risk of patent claims from our standards.

Ben Poor summarised the activities that the Technical Group worked on in 2024, and which ones would be continuing into 2025. In particular, the activity to try and link to on-demand audio has evolved into a more broad set of functions to link together broadcast radio and broadcaster's own apps. The RadioDNS Demonstrator was discussed, and Nick reminded people that instructions on how to buy and build the demonstrator were available.

Andy Buckingham provided a brief review of operations, confirming that we have provided 100% uptime throughout the year. He also provided an update on the new CRM / FQDN system, which is an ongoing project that will be continuing in 2025.

Nick presented that we renewed our North American trademarks during the year, and also were approached by an organisation claiming patent rights on some of our functionality. That organisation was challenged with evidence and asked to provide substantiation for their claims, and we have not subsequently heard from them.

The membership was reviewed - We have 23 members in 2025, with 4 members having left in 2024, but there are a couple of organisations interested in joining in 2025.

Nick ended this section of the presentation with the news that activity on our DNS servers (and indicator of general use) rose from 3.1m queries a day to 3.4m queries during 2024. Christian Winter (Audi) said he could add data from a manufacturers side: from 84,000 DNS lookups, 31% of them resolve to 26,000 services.

The Meeting voted on and approved the Steering Board decisions in 2024

An election for the new Steering Board was held.

Steering Board Election & Results:

Ben Poor - Chair

Neil Bingham - Secretary

Badri Munipalli

David Layer

Dave Walters

Laurence Harrison

Jamie Sampson

Christian Winter

Michael Reichart

Nacho

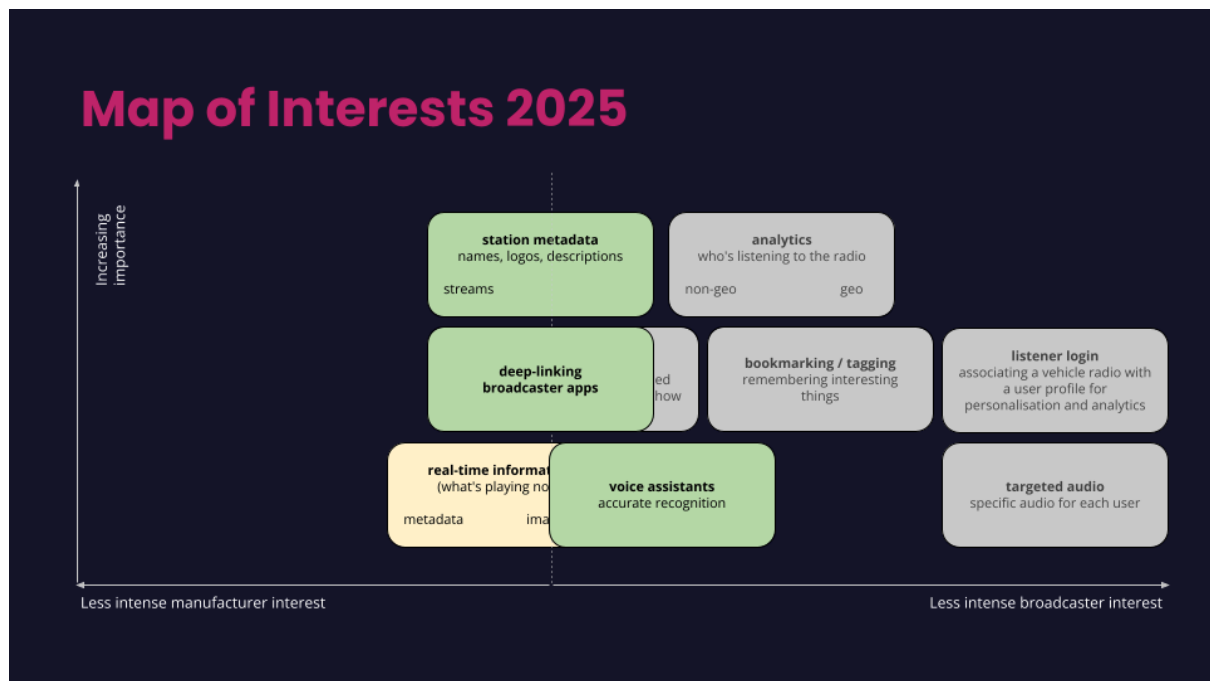
As the board should be 11 members, Nick asked anyone interested in joining the board to get in contact.

RadioDNS in 2025

Nick presented the plan for 2025.

Education and communication is still important, and within that emphasising that RadioDNS is a standards organisation, not a service.

Nick presented an updated chart of the member's priorities, which guided our plans and priorities for the year.



As incorrect radio station logos is a persistent, and apparently worsening problem, we have a plan to launch a website where drivers and radio stations can report where they are seeing incorrect logos and explain how it might be fixed. The intention is not to embarrass organisations, but to find out where the process is going wrong, how it can be fixed and if the situation is improving.

Alongside this existing issue, it was identified that voice assistants may also cause problems and need help implementing and RadioDNS might have a role to play in this.

We will continue our education activities through events and online, and also continue the programme of Automotive Workshops. We'll be using LinkedIn and our website more for communication and information.

Nick presented our RadioDNS Demonstrator, which is a physical device that can be built and used to demo RadioDNS. The instructions on how to purchase the components and build it are available from the Project Office, and we will also provide current stable versions of the demo app supporting the latest features.

Our technical priorities for 2025 will be:

- Deep linking from broadcast radio into broadcaster apps
- Updating our core standard to improve geo-based lookups

- Implementing Changelogs and tracking changes

We would like to increase the diversity of Members attending the Technical Group, and it's fine for people to join and observe if they want to understand how the TG works.

Ben Poor reminded the group that RadioDNS is not just an implementer but its role is also to try out concepts.

With Ben's appointment as the Chair of RadioDNS, there was a discussion about whether we needed to appoint a Technical Group Chair, and it was decided it wasn't necessary, and Nick would lead the TG meetings.

Nick presented on the Operations plan for 2025. Of course we will sustain our core functionality at 100%, and Andy Buckingham presented an explainer video on how the FQDN is being maintained and the database that has been designed. Nick outlined the legal agreement for accessing the FQDN list.

2025 Budget

Nic presented the proposed budget for 2025:

2025 Budget			
Income			
Membership (existing)	£103 500	New Members (2)	£9 000
		Total	£112 500
Expenditure			
Project Office	£65 192	DNS Servers	£4 800
Tech Development	£29 800	Legal	£14 000
Education	£32 300		
		Total	£165 592
		Deficit	(£34 092)
		Retained Funds	£50 254

The meeting approved by vote the Plan and Budget for 2025.

Nick ended the meeting by thanking the Members for their ongoing support, and for their time in attending and contributing.