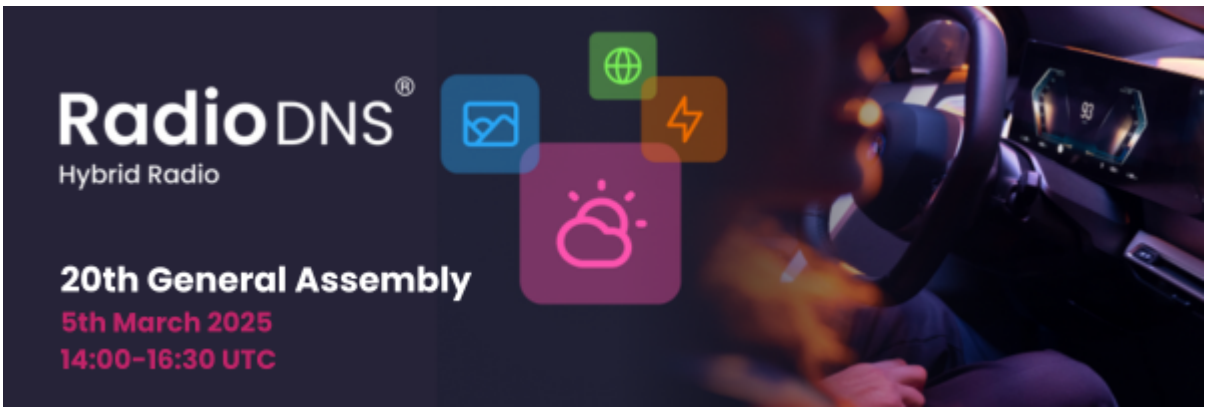


RadioDNS 20th General Assembly

5th March 2026 at 09:00 ET / 14:00 GMT / 15:00 CET

Welcome from Nick Piggott, Project Director

Welcome from the Chair, Ben Poor (EBU)
Ben opened the meeting with a presentation on radio listening formats across Europe, with figures that show almost ¾ of radio listening is done in the car. He said there is a lot of diversity in how people listen and that thetransition from terrestrial broadcast to IP seems to be a long tail rather than a big bang. He said, "Radio needs a range of ways to bring audiences into its future and the RadioDNS standards are the glue that can help bind them together."

He added some things to watch in 2026: Radio Ready - more information coming later in the meeting; Deep/App linking providing a meaningful link between the radio tuner and the car app ecosystem which is being received positively; AI and Agents being used in an open way so audiences can find the radio stations they are looking for and easily get back to live radio to keep the connection in a world that is becoming more fragmented. Ben said RadioDNS can be meaningful in this transformative world.

Members' Business - including financial review - Neil Bingham (Secretary) (Frontier Smart Tech)
Neil took the attendees through the voting process and then asked for votes on the statutory items:

- Agenda for 20th RadioDNS General Assembly was approved
- Minutes from 19th RadioDNS General Assembly were approved
- Annual Accounts: Neil summarised the accounts: RadioDNS didn't get as many new members as expected and also spent less than expected.

Dave Walters (BBC) asked why we didn't spend quite as much money as intended in 2025. Nick Piggott answered that the plan for 2025 was to overspend against our income to reduce the surplus by £35,000 (the plan also included 2 new members) however we didn't get the revenue predictions right and so Nick didn't want to spend against revenue that hadn't come in. Additionally, 2024 had been quite expensive legally with trademark fees and a patent challenge so £10,000 had been allocated for legal fees which was not needed. The project budget was also ambitious but the intended projects were unable to be started as early in the year as intended. These together represent the £35,000 that wasn't overspent.
Dave Walters asked if the ambition to spend in 2026 will be covered in the meeting and Nick confirmed.

- RadioDNS 2025 accounts were approved

Neil reviewed the activities of the Steering Board over 2025: overseeing proposals from the project office and technical group; being legally responsible for RadioDNS and representing members.

- RadioDNS Steering Board 2025 decisions were approved.

Review of 2025 - Nick Piggott
RadioDNS exists to accelerate the growth and decrease the cost and complexity of implementing hybrid radio for everyone.

Nick said we ask what can be done today to increase the application of IP to broadcast radio, make it easy to find, easy to use and an enjoyable experience as well as reducing the complexity of implementing broadcast technologies. The organisation needs broadcasters to be more vocal about why they want to adopt the standards and manufacturers need to tell their suppliers that they want to adopt the standards to cut down costs of otherwise inconsequential transport functions for useful metadata. Open standards require people to self start, RadioDNS does not offer or sell solutions or participate in the market. This is important so there is space left for others to do this using our standards. The updates in this meeting will be about our role in education and innovation as well as ensuring our operations run smoothly.

Events

- We have attended several events to meet users, members and those interested in RadioDNS as well as displaying our demo. We attended:
  Radiodays Athens - with the demo,
- ABU DBS - Nick also spoke on stage
- NAB Show - a really big event for RadioDNS
- Autotech Detroit - some great conversations
- ARD Automotive Partners meeting
- Radiodays Asia - Nick spoke on a panel on the future of radio in automotive,
- IBC - part of the EBU stand with the demo unit - plus open source speed talks where Nick explained RadioDNS in 8 mins
- WorldDAB General Assembly - Nick spoke about the importance of the UX Guidelines and fixing radio station metadata

Communications
Rosie Kendrick (RadioDNS) updated the members on the communications - from regular emails to LinkedIn posts and also articles about us, or written by us, on others' websites. This year there was one in RadioWorld about implementing RadioDNS by Megan Amoss at Baltimore Public Media.

The RadioDNS email subscriber list is about 700 in total, additionally there are emails sent directly to the active Automotive Workshop list - over 200 people who participate in the meetings.

Rosie asked the members to follow RadioDNS on LinkedIn and to comment or share on the posts so they reach more audience. Rosie added that we work closely with designer Eloise Corke who designed the RadioDNS website and digital images used to make sure branding at events as well as physical items such as leaflets and business cards are all cohesive.

Automotive Workshops
Nick summarised the intention of the workshops is to talk about things that are going wrong

today and work out best interventions. There are 4 workshops per year - 2 in person and 2 online, the in-person workshops are 4 hours and 15-20 people attend. It works best when people are in the same room but we know people have tight travel restrictions so these meetings often become hybrid. The online meetings are around 2 hours long and follow up the bigger meeting. Hot topics are radio station logos, German prominence regulations with other problems arising being test drive routes, UX guidelines and Android Automotive for radio. Nick added the meetings are really valuable.

Innovation
The RadioDNS Technical group is open to members and is run by Nick now that Ben Poor has become Chair of RadioDNS. There is a strict IPR policy so anyone using our standards will not have any patent costs or claims. There are 8 meetings per year and they are about 90 mins.

Items worked on in 2025 include:

- App Deep Linking - to create a simple link between broadcast radio listening sessions and to easily install a broadcasters app in a vehicle. Nick demonstrated this by linking directly from broadcast to the broadcasters app with the option to install this app directly and then it launches automatically for the user and the listening has not been interrupted, then once installed users can go straight to the broadcasters app directly. This was done by repurposing TS 102 818 with some guidance, Nick gave thanks to a number of broadcasters who took the time to make changes to their existing information to add in the hooks for functionality.
- URIs that reference broadcast radio - formalise the concept that radio can be linked to and from, so there is an official way to call into an app from the radio and vice versa.
- Hybrid radio lookup - this is the way people find radio stations and as RadioDNS has spread and more countries are implementing it, we are finding more corner cases that need to be addressed.
- Github standards docs - currently a whole document needs to be read to understand changes, in Github the changes can be put into the changelog.
- Demo - it is possible to make a demo unit, currently it costs about $400 for all the parts, we can send a list of parts if interested.

Operations
Update from Andy Buckingham (RadioDNS) on how RadioDNS functions and why.

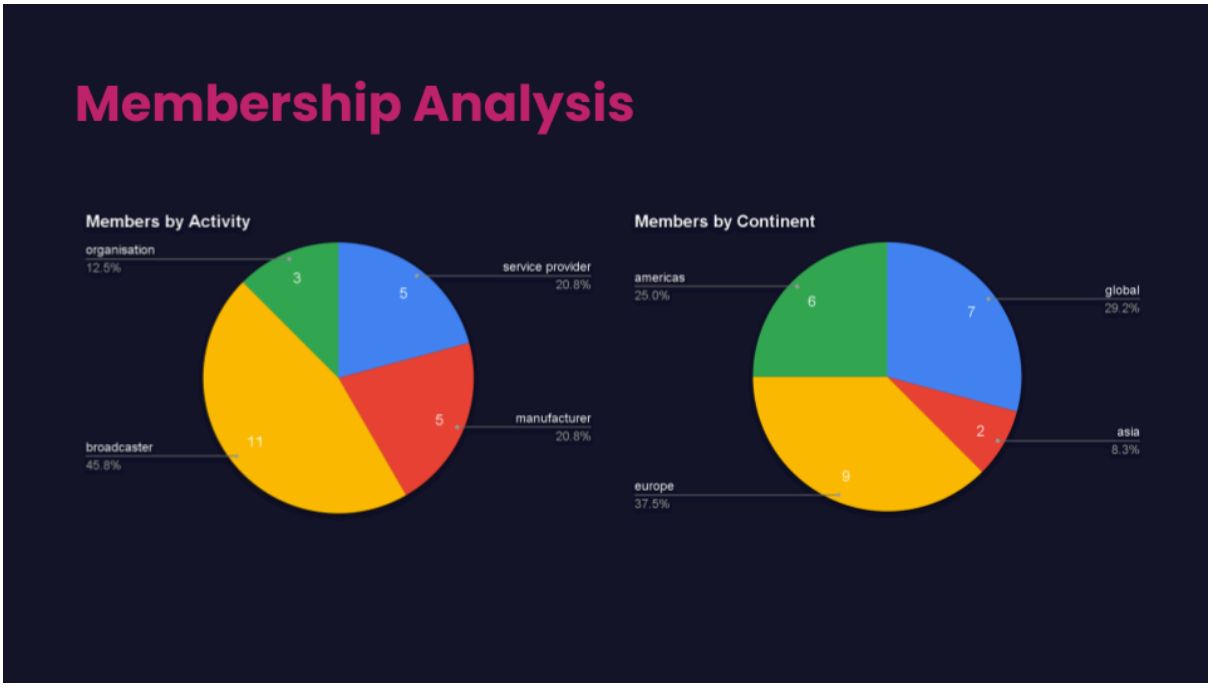
RadioDNS has multiple DNS locations globally which means any failure of one location has insignificant disruption and it is easy to scale according to growing demand. Only the radiodns.org TLD is used, the lookups are handled on local servers. Targets for uptime is 100% and reply to DNS additions or changes is of 1 working day - both have been achieved. 69% of registration requests are resolved in the first reply, the other 30% is typically a misunderstanding of incorrect configuration and there is an average of about 1.77 replies per registration.

A trend in 2025 has been AI generated registration requests - usually in xml that has been generated for SI files that contain hallucinations. We have worked with the companies to help them through the process and they have eventually produced valid content and got them online. This demonstrates interest in RadioDNS but there are possible barriers to registration so we are looking at how we can lower those barriers but also receive accurate information at the first request.

RadioDNS encourages automated notifications that monitor SI files and any changes spotted in a bearer should generate an email into the RadioDNS registration queue so it can be dealt

with, which usually happens within 24 hours. Andy asked if members are interested in doing this then to get in touch with the project office. He also mentioned the Server Implementation Testing Platform which is a member-only resource that checks and validates a RadioDNS setup. There is also a RadioDNS depository at Github where there are lots of useful libraries and utilities.

2025 in numbers
Nick Piggott said we started 2025 with 23 members but lost NPO and gained Denex, so we start 2026 with 23 members. Membership breakdown is below.



The 100% uptime target was met in 2025. The verified DNS changes target was not hit - there were about 10 requests over the year which took two working days instead of one, but still good.

Last year we had about 3.4m daily root DNS queries, we now get 13.1m which is an increase of 423%. This indicates we are heading in the right direction, and it isn't causing our servers any concern but is significant growth.

Radio Ready - presented by Tobias Nielsen, Bauer Media
Tobias introduced Radio Ready by encouraging people to go to the website - readyready.info for more information. He explained the background of the EBU and European public service broadcasters working on a Play Book for radio distribution in cars. There was a workshop in London in May last year and launched 'Radio Ready' which is a broadcaster led industry campaign which ensures radio will continue to be prominent in cars and broadcaster apps should be discoverable and voice assistants in cars should be reliable.

The campaign was announced in June last year and Australian commercial radio stations have joined as well as working with NAB in the US and South Africa are interested in the project.

First of all the vision was agreed on, but the difficult part is now achieving these goals, so the team have monthly meetings and launched 2 dedicated workstreams built on what should

happen to achieve the goals, one is dedicated to government lobbying and the other to metadata.

Already there are tangible outcomes, lobbying Brussels to make radio mandatory in cars in the future. The metadata workstream is understanding the current status quo in metadata distribution and creating alignment across stakeholders, broadcasters and aggregators as well as best practice collaboration with OEMs through concrete case studies, demonstrating the value of open standards and enabling future collaboration. There will be a session about Radio Ready at RDE in Riga.

The belief is that the more broadcasters that join the campaign, the more influence it will have on car makers and policy makers. The website is radioready.info which has relevant data and insights of the importance of having radio in cars.

The first campaign has already happened, broadcasters led a campaign asking their audience to make sure their next car has radio in it. This ran in 15 countries with a total reach of 180 million weekly listeners - which is the largest campaign across europe ever. They will be running campaigns similar to this in future.

Radio Ready is free to join, and everyone's invited, they only ask users to put the Radio Ready logo on their website.

Nick Piggott asked about their work with the importance of open standards, the metadata working group and explaining to radio stations what the minimum requirements for metadata are. Tobias replied that a year ago he didn't really know what it was and so they are targeting the decision makers at the radio stations to make them aware of how important this is. He added that about one third of all Bauer Media Audio listening is in cars, which would be a significant loss, so listening in cars needs to be invested in and hopefully this will move the metadata conversation to the wider leadership team.

RadioDNS Logo Refresh
Nick introduced the designer, Eloise Corke, who has worked with the team on the RadioDNS branding for several years - since the last web redesign. Eloise created a cleaner logo which Nick showed the members and there was a positive reaction.

AI/LLMs & RadioDNS - our learning so far
In 2025 we saw a rise in AI generated requests. stations are showing an interest in using RadioDNS open standards, and now they can type something into an LLM that will apparently give them an answer on how to proceed. However that answer is often incorrect and hits the RadioDNS registrations queue. These requests are often easy to spot quickly, for example broken or junk XML structure. This is taking up a lot of time as they need to be inspected more carefully to make sure they function properly, so the effort has shifted from the radio station to RadioDNS - this is why the number of reactions to resolve a query has gone up.

Nick asked if an option would be to customise an LLM with the process and guardrails so it is more likely to produce a more accurate result. The concern is this is outside of our domain and could be a big cost and beyond the requirements and so doesn't feel like the best option available. This still needs a human validation check before it goes live and it would be preferable if it was the broadcaster that did this rather than RadioDNS.

There is an SI builder but it isn't being used as much as it could be - Nick said he thinks this is because it isn't well signposted and is only in English, it's not in the registration pipeline and also doesn't validate, it will accept wrong input. As the support time is increasing, our

process needs to change so it is as attractive as using an LLM.

Therefore RadioDNS is looking to build a more integrated pathway and add wider language support from the start and on the homepage. Additionally some users should use a service provider to work with rather than trying to self host, complete validation in process but the AI advice is to self host, so those that should not proceed to self-hosting should be caught earlier in the process. Additionally, the RadioDNS offer needs to be clear: just to get the basics right, anything extra needs to be the responsibility of the broadcaster in order to get it right.

Summary of the AI experience is that it is impacting processes and support load. RadioDNS will rebuild to respond to this - ideally the correct response from AI should be to follow the process from the website, not to create an hallucinogenic SI file.

Ben Poor said it's a good sign and interesting that this is an indicator there is interest, there is privilege to English speaking audiences and multilingual information would be good to be translated. Regardless of tooling put in place on the RadDNS page, it is a struggle to get users to access it and follow and so support could be looked at. Nick responded this is a theme for other parts of the project.

FQDN Project
Nick updated the members about this project to provide an alternative route to get to the information provided by using our standards. It has been a much larger project than anticipated - and was happening at the same time as the support work was increasing.

The technical system is in the testing phase, this has become critical as the traffic has climbed, a more modular management process is being implemented. The database needed to be cleaned and there is a draft user agreement ready to be used. There has been a delay, but the new way of working should be ready to go in the summer without disruption to operations.

David Layer asked if it was primarily Nick Piggott and Andy Buckingham working on this project, and Nick agreed and added this was why the support load rising affected the time this project has taken.

User experience guidelines
The document that WorldDAB compiled some time ago to implement good radio which RadioDNS has contributed towards. It is currently a PDF on the WorldDAB website. The UX Guidelines group agreed it would be better presented as a website, so we took the PDF document and turned it into a website. Designer Eloise Corke designed all of the information into a standard template for guidelines, so it is familiar for users and it looks a lot better than the original document, crucially it is able to be translated into multiple languages and is much more functional.

This is still in draft, but is close to being finished. Dave Walters and Ben Poor asked about translating the guidelines and Nick confirmed that it will be automatically translated in the first instance but checked by a native speaker.

Nick said as soon as it is ready it will be announced.

wrongradiostationlogos.com
Wrong logos in cars is the number one support issue for RadioDNS and the number one motivation for radio stations to implement RadioDNS. This is a drain on RadioDNS resources and so we will create this website for users, broadcasters and manufacturers. The website

can be used to report an incorrect logo and will get recommendations on how to fix it. Traffic will be measured and hopefully there will be a decline as the problems are solved - so less support time and faster fixes for everyone.
There will be no personally identifiable information captured, there will just be topline trends to make sure problems are being fixed. Nick asked if members would like to be involved in the design of the website if possible, as this is about making the process as easy as possible for everyone.

This means that all the information RadioDNS holds - such as a broadcaster or provider of logo - now needs to be in a structured format. In order to do that there will be a series of individual meetings scheduled with manufacturers in order to work out the different processes,

Tech group activities this year
Android automotive is in the process of moving to a new hardware interface format which may potentially hold back hybrid implementation. This could be an opportunity to provide coordination to provide consistency and cost effectiveness. Therefore we may coordinate and contribute to an open source project that identifies the gaps applicable to hybrid radio, co-ordinate open-source code creation to fix those gaps and offer the code back to Android for inclusion.

Dave Walters said that when Android Automotive was first floated there were gaps - were these fixed and are these new problems? Nick replied that Android Automotive works well for AM/FM radio, but there are still functional gaps, so currently every manufacturer needs to write a workaround, which means duplication of workload. It just requires agreement on open source code for the fixes.

Ben Poor asked what broadcasters can do to make this a priority for Android Automotive and Nick said ultimately it needs support, this project will take some effort to coordinate and will probably only require 10 developers who work at manufacturers and it could be fixed.

Laurence Harrison asked if there is already an available summary list of all the missing areas. Nick replied that if manufacturers were to compare their issues, they would be identical but are currently proprietary.

Christian Winter (CARIAD) on chat said there might be a good response from Android Automotive if there is a pull request and Nick agreed.

Regulatory information
This has been triggered by German regulation and the concern that a lot of further countries would like to implement regulation regarding prominence and so the anxiety is that there is no structure to how this information is communicated and is not in a machine readable format.

Nick suggested that RadioDNS would not be able to harmonise regulation but it could be an opportunity to provide well defined data structures that can be mapped into providing information. He added that a proof of concept was needed, but the existing RadioDNS data structures could be provided, there is a concern that manufacturers may see broadcast radio as too much effort.

Dave Walters (BBC) said that an application of a technology already created is a positive and said that a workflow infographic would be helpful to explain to a regulator how this could work.

Ben Poor (EBU) said he has looked at how this conformed to the PSI legislation and as it stands it is possibly confirming to legislation and is a good opportunity for RadioDNS to step in and provide the open standards to fill the current gap.

Nick encouraged everyone to join the technical group and especially to involve people from member organisations that might not think they have a place there, although it is a technical group representatives with diverse skills, experience and backgrounds are welcome.

Education
There are already a number of events lined up for 2026. Radiodays Europe, NAB Show, Autotech Detroit. Automotive Workshops are already planned, details can be found at www.radiodns.org/campaigns/automotive-workshops/ - joining criteria are tightening for 2026, it has been open to all until now, but non-members will only be welcomed once from now on.

Meetings with manufacturers will be taking place throughout the year.

Budget for 2026
The budget will hopefully hit the overspend that wasn't managed in 2025 and Nick presented an overview of the plans for expenditure for 2026.

2026 Budget

Income			
Membership (existing)	£103 500	New Members (1)	£4 500
		Total	**£108 000**
Expenditure			
Project Office	£65 192	DNS Servers	£4 800
Tech Development	£29 800	Legal	£10 000
Education	£32 300		
		Total	**£146 592**
		Deficit	**(£38 592)**
		Retained Funds	**£46 691**

Dave Walters asked if there was a budget allocated for marketing as there are some big numbers that could be talked about. Nick replied that RadioDNS hasn't historically been a noisy organisation but would like guidance from the members about what could be done.

The meeting ended with no further questions from the members, Nick summarised that 2026 is looking busy and focus needs to be on projects that make a difference. The projects are ambitious but hopefully will have improved the systemisation of tasks, freeing time to concentrate on important projects.