A NEW DIRECTION FOR IN-BAND DAB... DAB developers USA Digital Radio and Lucent Technologies’ Bell Labs are teaming up to develop a single digital audio broadcasting technology. The two companies have been competing to bring a standard technology to in-band on-channel DAB. The joint effort encompasses both AM and FM signals and switches the technological focus of the project to Perceptual Audio Coding (PAC), a mathematical version of how humans hear sound. Bell Labs holds the patent on PAC. USA Digital is a partnership between Westinghouse/CBS and Gannett.

MARTZ CONTINUES REGIONAL GROWTH... The Martz Communications Group will soon be five stations larger. In two separate agreements, its buying AC WCYC and country WNNV, Malone, NY, from L.C.C. Media and talk WMJQ and rock WIMK, Iron Mountain, MI and rock WUPK, Marquette, MI from Superior Media Group. The two New York stations will combo with Martz’ construction permit in Chateaugay, NY, WYUL. The three together cover the northern part of New York state. The Michigan stations will move in with AC WZNL, Norway, MI to serve the central part of Michigan’s upper peninsula. LMA’s on all five stations began May 1.

FORMAT CHANGES & UPDATES ( # change accompanies new ownership) ( // simulcast)

AL Citronelle (Mobile) WHXT-102.1 country southern gospel
Huntsville WTKJ-1450 talk adds Fan - sports
Northport (Tuscaloosa) WLXY-100.7 classic hits adds John Boy & Billy
Tuscaloosa WTSK-790 gospel, R&B oldies black gospel
Valley Head (Chatt.) WQRX-870 # country soft AC "RX-870"
(WQRX enters an LMA-to-buy with Dade County Broadcasters)
AK Fairbanks KCBF-820 talk WL1 - oldies
(KCBF keeps its Swap Shop program from 9am to noon)
AR Lonoke (Little Rock) KMZX-106.3 # black gospel dance CHR "Laser 106"
(KMZX enters an LMA-to-buy with Arkansas Media which controls KDRE)
CA San Diego KSDO-1130 # news & talk financial news & talk
San Mateo (San Fran.) KOPY-1050 # regional Mexican to be sports & talk in July
(KOPY is being sold to sports & talk KNBR and alternative KFFG/KPOG)
CT Hartford WHCN-105.9 classic rock adds Bob & Tom
FL Chattahoochee WTCJ-1580 # silent talk & urban
Fort Pierce (W.P.B.) WCBB-95.5 Howard Stern & CW adds Country Heartline
(WCBB-FM also broadcasts After MidNite with Blair Garner)
FL Ft. Lauderdale (Miami) WSRF-1580 # brokered ethnic entertainment news
(WSRF enters an LMA-to-buy with Entertainment Radio Systems)
IL Arcola WKJF-107.9 # country reported silent
(WKJF begins an LMA-to-buy with WXEJ and is expected back by June)
Teutopolis WKJF-102.3 # silent JSN CD - country
(Teutopolis also begins an LMA-to-buy with WXEJ; WKJF’s country format moves to WKJF)
IN Evansville WJPS-1400 # oldies // FM WEOA, ABC - urban AC
(WJPS begins an LMA with B.L.S. Entertainment and will also broadcast
ABC’s Tom Joyner and Doug Banks)
KS Emporia KNQM-91.9* religion contemporary Christian
LA Mamou KEQG-101.1 new variety
(KBQH programs a mix of country, Cajun, Zydeco, blues & rock oldies)
MD Bethesda (Washington) WRAS-94.7 classic rock adds The Greaseman
MI Allegan (Kalamazoo) WZZU-92.3 # WXLT, modern rock oldies // WQXC-FM
(WZZU is now a combo with WQXC-FM and expects a new format by June)
Charlotte (Lansing) WMMQ-92.7 classic rock Salem - soft c. Christian
(WMMQ’s calls & format have moved to 94.9 MHz. New calls will be WVIC-FM.)

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