New Scandinavian Satellite Planned

If all goes according to plan, Sweden, Denmark and Norway will receive a new Scandinavian satellite channel in around the autumn of 1988. A major Swedish financial group, Kinnevik, has already invested some £25 million into the project with a promise of a similar sum next year.

Provisionally named Scansat, the initial aim of the project is to broadcast 10 hours a day of programmes, 20% of which will be commissioned directly from Scandinavia and the remainder will be Anglo-American purchases. Joeran Sellgren, who has 15 years experience as programme buyer for Swedish national channel TV2, has been recruited by Scansat and told M&M that, "although there will be a heavy stress on entertainment, we want to create a full service as soon as possible with news, documentaries, children's programmes and so on". Sellgren is confident that there will be a strong demand.

Radio Quotas in Germany?

Hamburg- A French-style quota system ensuring airplay for national product could be on the cards in West Germany, judging by the growing complaints from some publishers and politicians. Already one of the most English-language dominated record markets in Europe, with overseas product accounting for 70% of sales, Germany is now seeing the popular private radio stations devote the lion's share of their airtime to international recordings.

National repertoire accounts for no more than 10% of these stations' music output, and publishers are now divided into two camps on the question of what is to be done. One side argues that the solution is simply to try harder: better productions and better promotion and a generally more competitive attitude are the answer.

The other believes something more concrete is needed. SBK Songs' Joost Van Os says: "Although I'm no fan of government rules and regulations for radio, the French system of minimum hourly airplay for local product could be an idea for Germany." But given the near-unanimous distaste for state-imposed controls among German publishers, the only real option seems to be to increase pressure on radio programmers and DJs.

A change will only occur if

New Look Charts

Starting with this issue, M&M's European charts - The Hot 100 Singles & Albums and the Airplay Top 50 - have a bright new look! The change in visual style marks the start of further re-vamps which will make the Hot 100 Singles/Albums reflect European sales trends even more accurately than ever.

At the moment the chart team of M&M is in the middle of improving and updating its chart system and the revised Hot 100s will be installed in the near future. Meanwhile, the use of M&M's European charts by the media is still growing: more and more European programmers are acknowledging the value of such data for their shows.

New Recording Section

As from this week, M&M offers a new monthly service to its readers - a section devoted to studios will highlight new trends and developments in broadcasting and recording studios, throughout Europe.