
Community Digital Sound Programme (C-DSP) licence

Application form – Part A (public)

Name of applicant (i.e. the body corporate that will hold the licence):

Akash Radio Leeds Ltd

Proposed service name:

Akash Radio Leeds

Radio multiplex service(s) on which the proposed C-DSP service is to be provided:

Leeds Digital Media

Public contact details:

Gurdev S Dahele MBE

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1. Overview

You should complete this form if you are applying for a community digital sound programme licence (“C-DSP”). You can find further information about C-DSP services in the [guidance notes for licensees and applicants](#).

This application form is divided into two parts – **Part A** (which we will publish on our website) and **Part B** (which will be kept confidential). This document constitutes Part A; [Part B of the application form](#) is available on our website.

If you encounter any issues using these forms, please contact broadcast.licensing@ofcom.org.uk.

The purpose of this form

- 1.1 You should complete this form if you are applying for a Community Digital Sound Programme (C-DSP) licence.
- 1.2 A digital sound programme service intended for broadcast by means of a local or small-scale radio multiplex service requires either a C-DSP licence or a local DSP licence. Ofcom’s published guidance notes set out some of the key issues that potential applicants need to consider in deciding which type of licence is suitable for them. In summary, C-DSP services are not run for financial gain and are required to provide social gain. C-DSP licences therefore include strict conditions to ensure that happens, and provide less flexibility than a local DSP licence. However, they do provide access to capacity that small-scale radio multiplex service providers are required to reserve solely for C-DSP services.
- 1.3 A C-DSP licence will be required even if the same programme service is also provided on any other platforms (e.g. FM, satellite), as separate licences are required for those.
- 1.4 As noted above, small-scale radio multiplex services will have reserved capacity for C-DSP services. Issue of a C-DSP licence does not, however, guarantee carriage on a small-scale (or local) radio multiplex service. That is a matter for agreement between the C-DSP licensee and the multiplex service provider, and there may be more C-DSP licences issued in a locality than there are reserved slots on the small-scale radio multiplex service. Note that a C-DSP service does not necessarily have to broadcast using reserved capacity. It can use unreserved capacity on a small-scale radio multiplex service or capacity on a local radio multiplex service, again subject to agreement with the multiplex service provider.
- 1.5 An application for a C-DSP licence will be accepted only once Ofcom has advertised the licence for the small-scale radio multiplex service upon which the proposed C-DSP service is intended to be provided. There is no closing-date by which an application for a C-DSP licence must be submitted (i.e. it can be submitted at any time after the licence for the relevant small-scale radio multiplex licence has been advertised).
- 1.6 You can find further information about how to determine if a service requires a C-DSP licence in Section 2 of the [guidance notes for applicants and licensees](#).

Provision of information

- 1.7 Ofcom requires complete and accurate information to assess applications. This is so that we can assess your application against statutory criteria, consider whether those involved in the body applying for a licence are ‘fit and proper’ to hold a licence, and determine whether their involvement with other organisations disqualifies them from participation in a licence.
- 1.8 It is an offence under the Broadcasting Act 1996 (as amended) to provide false information or withhold relevant information during the application process, and may be grounds for revocation of a licence subsequently granted.

Publication of information about applications and licensed services

- 1.9 Information provided in **Part A** of the application form will be published by Ofcom following the submission of your application. Information provided in **Part B** will not be published.
- 1.10 In submitting this application you agree that, should a licence be granted, Ofcom may publish contact details for the licensee (specified in Section 2 of Part B of the application form), which may include personal data, on the Ofcom website and/or in other relevant publications. If you have any questions about the information that we publish, or there are any changes to this information, you should contact the Broadcast Licensing team by email (broadcast.licensing@ofcom.org.uk).
- 1.11 Ofcom considers issued C-DSP licences to be public documents and copies of licences will be made available to third parties on request albeit, other than the Key Commitments which are tailored to the service, C-DSP licences are standard form documents. A brief description of the licensed service will be published on the Ofcom website, along with the Key Commitments which form part of the licence.
- 1.12 Ofcom publishes a [monthly radio licensing update](#) which lists new services licensed, licences revoked, licence transfers, and changes to licensed services during the past month.

Data protection

- 1.13 We require the information requested in this form in order to carry out our licensing duties under the Broadcasting Act 1990, Broadcasting Act 1996 and Communications Act 2003. Please see Ofcom’s [General Privacy Statement](#) for further information about how Ofcom handles your personal information and your corresponding rights.

Keeping up to date with broadcasting matters

- 1.14 We strongly recommend that the appropriate person at the applicant body signs up to receive Ofcom’s regular email updates on broadcasting matters including notification when the Broadcast and On Demand Bulletin is published.

- 1.15 To sign up to receive these communications, you must visit [the email updates area of our website](#) and select 'Broadcasting.'

2. Applicant's details

About this section

In this section we are asking you for details about the applicant company. This must be a body corporate which is not profit distributing.

In the first part of this section, we are asking for basic details about the applicant. These include company registration number and contact information.

In the second part of this section we are asking for details of the applicant's officers (directors or, in the case of LLPs, designated members), its shareholders and participants. Where applicable, we are also asking for details of the officers of the applicant's parent and associated companies or LLPs etc.

If any of the individuals named in your responses are known by more than one name/version of their name, all names must be provided.

Certain persons are disqualified from holding a C-DSP licence. This section asks the questions which enable us to consider this for those types of disqualification which apply specifically to bodies corporate. It also asks questions which are relevant to our assessment of the applicant's fitness and propriety to hold a C-DSP licence.

Before completing this section of the form, you should read [Ofcom's guidance on the definition of 'control' of media companies](#). Throughout this section, "control" has the meaning it is given in Part I of Schedule 2 of the Broadcasting Act 1990.

The response boxes and tables should be expanded or repeated where necessary, or provided in a separate annex.

'Officerships' in this section refers to: directorships of bodies corporate, designated memberships of LLPs, or membership of a governing body of an unincorporated association (including partnerships).

Applicant information and contact details

2.1 Name of applicant (i.e. the body corporate that will hold the licence):

Akash Radio Leeds Ltd

2.2 Company registration number stated on Companies House:

8737123

2.3 For UK registered companies, the address of the applicant's registered office stated on Companies House.

For non-UK registered companies, the principal office address:

Amar Gate
46 Alwoodley Lane
Leeds LS17 7PT

2.4 If a UK registered company, is the **current** Memorandum and Articles of Association document available on the Companies House website?

Yes/No-(delete as appropriate)

If no, please submit the up to date document and indicate you have done so in the checklist in Section 4 of Part B.

2.5 Contact details of the individual duly authorised by the applicant for the purposes of making this application. This individual should be the company secretary, a director or (if an LLP) designated member.

(If you are an agent completing the form on behalf of the applicant please do not enter your details here – see paragraph 2.25 of the [guidance notes](#)).

Full name	Gurdev Singh Dahele MBE
Job title	Director
Address	Amar Gate 46 Alwoodley Lane Leeds LS17 7PT West Yorkshire
Telephone	
Mobile phone	07740 477066
Email	gsdahele@yahoo.co.uk

2.6 If the proposed Licensed Service has/will have a website, please provide the website address below.

www.akashradioleeds.co.uk

2.7 How will the service be financed? If the applicant is receiving, or is likely to receive, any form of funding and/or financial assistance to establish and maintain the service, please provide details of who is providing that funding/financial assistance and the extent of it.

If you are receiving funding from, or on behalf of, a source that could be considered a political organisation or a religious body, you must set out the nature of that organisation here.

- The service will be financed from reserve funds retained for improvement of the service.
- We will apply for grants from local authority's, "Support for Community Initiatives" and from other public bodies..
- Income from the annual fund raising dinner/dance event
- The current AM service could not be accessed by those in cars due to decline of the medium wave band radios. The DAB service will help to increase listenership, thus will give scoop to increase our income from donations.
- Additional income will be generated from sale of increased number of advertisements due to the DAB service.
- Further support will be available from the philanthropic members of the community.

The digital path will provide opportunity to Akash Radio Leeds to sustain its long term future and continue providing the much needed service to the community for entertainment, raising awareness of opportunities in education, training, employment and enterprise initiatives.

No political or religious body funding is provided.

Ownership and control of the company which will hold the licence

Details of officers, participants and shareholders of the applicant

2.8 Please provide the following details for each director or designated member of the applicant:

Full name of individual	Correspondence address ¹	Country of residence	Other officerships held (and nature of the business concerned)	Other employment
Gurmail Singh Sahota	Amar Gate 46 Alwoodley Lane Leeds LS17 7PT	UK	Rani Properties (Leeds) Ltd Property Business	Rani Properties (Leeds) Ltd

¹ This should be the same address as is held and published by Companies House.

Gurdev Singh Dahi MBE	Amar Gate 46 Alwoodley Lane Leeds LS17 7PT	UK	N/A	N/A
Kishor Kumar Chunilal Dabhi	Amar Gate 46 Alwoodley Lane Leeds LS17 7PT	UK	N/A	N/A

2.9 Please identify any entities with which the applicant is affiliated:

(If this question is not applicable to the applicant please respond "N/A" in the table.)

Full name of the entity	Address
N/A	N/A

2.10 Complete the following table, expanding it if necessary, to list all bodies corporate which are controlled by the applicant, and their affiliates:

Full name of entity	Address	Affiliates
N/A		

2.11 Complete the following table, expanding it if necessary, to list all persons who control the applicant, together with their affiliates. If any persons or bodies control the applicant jointly because they act together in concert (e.g. because of a shareholder's agreement), each such person must be identified here:

Full name of individual or body	Address	Affiliates
Gurmail Singh Saha	Amar Gate 46 Alwoodley Lane Leeds LS17 7PT	N/A

C-DSP licence: Application form (Part A)

Gurdev Singh Dahele MBE	Amar Gate 46 Alwoodley Lane Leeds LS17 7PT	N/A
Kishor Kumar Chunilal Dabhi	Amar Gate 46 Alwoodley Lane Leeds LS17 7PT	N/A

- 2.12 Complete the following table, expanding it if necessary, to list all officerships in other bodies that are held by any individual listed in response to question 2.11, and any affiliates of those bodies:

Full name of individual	Name of body in which officership held	Affiliates of that body
Gurmail Singh Sahota	Rani Properties (Leeds) Ltd	N/A
Gurdev Singh Dahele MBE	N/A	N/A
Kishor Kumar Chunilal Dabhi	N/A	N/A

- 2.13 Complete the following table, expanding it if necessary, to list all bodies corporate which are controlled by anybody corporate listed in response to question 2.11, and their affiliates:

Full name of body corporate listed in 2.11	Body corporate controlled	Affiliates of body corporate controlled
N/A		

- 2.14 In relation to each body corporate identified in response to question 2.11, complete the following table, expanding it if necessary, to list all bodies which hold or are beneficially entitled to shares, or who possess voting powers, amounting to more than 5% in the body corporate concerned (“participants”). You may, but are not required to, exclude from this table any bodies listed in response to question 2.11. If you are unable to provide a complete answer to this question in relation to beneficial owners, please state whether you have any reason to suspect the existence of any beneficial owners.

Name of body corporate identified in response to question 2.11	N/A			
Full name of >5% participant	Number of shares	Total investment (£s)	Total investment (%)	% of voting rights
N/A				
Comments				

Involvement of the applicant in specified activities

- 2.15 Please state below whether the applicant, or any of the directors, shareholders or other individuals named above, including their associates (i.e. directors of their associates and other group companies), is, or is involved in, any of the below, and the extent of that interest.

Activity/involvement	Yes or No	Please state who is involved; the name of the body/individual/agency they are involved with; and the extent of their involvement
A local authority	NO	
A body whose objects are wholly or mainly of a political nature, or which is affiliated to such a body	No	
A body whose objects are wholly or mainly of a religious nature; ²	No	
An individual who is an officer of a body falling within (b) or (c);	No	

² Please refer to Sections 3 to 5 of [Ofcom's religious guidance note](#) for details on how we determine the eligibility of religious bodies to hold certain broadcasting licences.

A body corporate which is an associate (as defined in paragraphs 1(1) and 1(1A) of Part I of Schedule 2 to the Broadcasting Act 1990) of a body falling within (b) or (c);	No	
An advertising agency or an associate of an advertising agency	No	

Details of applications, licences and sanctions

2.16 Is the applicant a current licensee of Ofcom?

Yes / ~~No~~ (delete as appropriate).

If yes, please provide the licence details expanding the table if necessary:

Licence number	Name of multiplex / Service
CR100143BA/1	Akash Radio Leeds Ltd

2.17 Has the applicant held an Ofcom broadcasting licence before?

Yes / ~~No~~ (delete as appropriate).

Licence number	Name of service or multiplex
Various (2002-04)	Akash Radio Ealing (RSL in Ealing)
Various (2004-14)	Akash Radio Leeds (RSL in Leeds)
CR100143BA/1 (2015 – to date)	Akash Radio Leeds

2.18 Has anyone involved in the proposed service, held an Ofcom broadcasting licence or been involved in an Ofcom-licensed broadcast service before?

Yes / ~~No~~ (delete as appropriate).

If yes, please provide the details expanding the table if necessary:

Dates licence was held or dates of involvement	Licence number (if known)	Name of service or multiplex
2002 to 2004	Various	Akash Radio Ealing (RSL in Ealing)
2004 to 2014	Various	Akash Radio Leeds (RSL in Leeds)
2015 to date	CR100143BA/1	Akash Radio Leeds

2.19 Does the applicant control an existing Ofcom licensee?

Yes / ~~No~~ (delete as appropriate).

If yes, please provide the licence details expanding the table if necessary:

Licence number	Name of service or multiplex
CR100143BA/1	Akash Radio Leeds

2.20 Is the applicant controlled by an existing licensee or by any person who is connected (within the meaning of Schedule 2 to the Broadcasting Act 1990) with an existing licensee (i.e. as a “participant”)?

Yes / ~~No~~(delete as appropriate).

If yes, please provide the following information, expanding the table if necessary:

Licence number	Name of service or multiplex
CR100143BA/1	Akash Radio Leeds

2.21 Has the applicant made any other application to Ofcom (or its predecessor broadcast regulators – the Independent Television Commission and the Radio Authority) for any licence

which has since been surrendered by the licensee or revoked by Ofcom (or one of its predecessor regulators)?

~~Yes~~ / No (delete as appropriate).

If yes, please provide the following information, expanding the table if necessary:

Licence number	Name of service or multiplex
N/A	

2.22 Is the applicant subject to any current or pending investigation by any statutory regulatory or government body in the United Kingdom or abroad in respect of any broadcast-related matter?

~~Yes~~/ No (delete as appropriate).

If yes, please provide the following details expanding the table if necessary:

Licence number (or equivalent)	Name of service or multiplex	Details of the investigation
N/A		

2.23 Has the applicant – or any person(s) controlling the applicant – ever been subject to a statutory sanction for contravening a condition of a broadcasting licence in the UK or any other jurisdiction?

~~Yes~~/ No (delete as appropriate).

If yes, please provide the following details relating to each sanction expanding the table if necessary:

Licence number (or equivalent)	Name of service or multiplex	Nature of the breach	Sanction imposed	Date sanction imposed
N/A				

2.24 In relation to any of the directors, shareholders or other individuals named in this application, please provide any information which you think may be a relevant consideration for

Ofcom in determining whether or not the applicant is fit and proper to hold a Broadcasting Act licence. If the applicant or the form signatory fails without reasonable excuse at this point to declare any matter of which Ofcom subsequently becomes aware, and which we do consider to be relevant to the applicant's eligibility to hold a licence, we will take it into account in determining the question of whether the applicant/licensee remains fit and proper to hold a licence.

If you have no information to provide, please respond "N/A".

N/A

2.25 Has the applicant – or any person(s) controlling the applicant – ever been convicted of an unlicensed broadcasting offence?

Yes / No (delete as appropriate).

If yes, please provide the following details:

Full name	Date of conviction/action (dd/mm/yy)	Penalty
N/A		

3. The proposed service

About this section

This section asks you to describe your proposed service, including the Key Commitments you propose to include in your licence. This includes your service name, multiplex name and character of service, in addition to standard commitments that all C-DSP licensees need to abide by. If a licence is granted, the information you provide in this section will be used to form the basis of the annex to your licence. You will only be authorised to broadcast what is detailed in the annex of the licence.

In this section, you will also need to set out how your service will provide social gain, community participation and how you will be accountable to the target community. This is in line with statutory requirements for the granting of C-DSP licences.

If you hold, or intend to hold, multiple C-DSP licences, the answers given in this section and the intended delivery of your Key Commitments must apply to the locality in which your proposed service will broadcast (as set out in the Draft Key Commitments in this application form).

Your proposed service and target community

3.1 What is the proposed service name?

Akash Radio Leeds

3.2 On which radio multiplex service do you intend to broadcast? If the relevant radio multiplex licence has not yet been awarded, please state the name of the area that the multiplex service is intended to cover, as defined in the multiplex licence advertisement.

Leeds Digital Media - small-scale radio multiplex service

3.3 Where is your proposed studio located? Please note that this must be located within the coverage area of the small-scale radio multiplex service identified in answer to 5.2 (or the advertised area for a small-scale radio multiplex service that has not yet been awarded).³

³ If you propose to provide your service on a local, rather than a small-scale, radio multiplex service, there is no requirement for your studio to be located within the licensed area of that local radio multiplex service.

The studio is based at 122 Potternewton Lane, Leeds LS7 2EG in Chapel Allerton within the coverage area of Leeds Digital Media small scale multiplex.

- 3.4 If the proposed service is a simulcast of an existing licensed radio service, please list that below and provide the licence number.

Akash Radio Leeds, Licence No CR100143BA/1

- 3.5 What is the target community of the service? Please include the geographical area that you wish to serve in addition to the interests or characteristics that define your target community. The area you wish to serve must be geographically located within the coverage area of the radio multiplex service on which you intend to broadcast. **Answer in fewer than 400 words.**

As of the 2011 UK census, the Metropolitan District of Leeds had a total population of 751,500. The minority ethnic populations representing just under 17.4% of the total population, of which 7.7% Asian (2.1% Indian, 3.0% Pakistani, 0.6% Bangladeshi, 0.8% Chinese, 1.2% Other Asian, 0.5% White Asians). (Source Leeds City Council 2011 Census Report)

The Indian population of 2.1% is made up of mainly Sikhs with a small number of Hindus. It is estimated that the population of Sikhs in the District of Leeds is about 15,000, spread across the city. The target group is mainly of Sikhs and Hindus. It also serves a significant number of Punjabi speaking Muslim communities from both Punjab states, the West Punjab in Pakistan and East Punjab in India.

The proposed service is a simulcast of the existing AM service and the target community is same as that service, residing in Chapeltown, Chapel Allerton, Moortown, Hyde Park, Carr Manors, Alwoodley, Roundhay, Adel, Stanningley, Gipton & Harehills, Armley, West Park, Weetwood, Morley North, Crossgates and Beeston & Holbeck the areas which all fall within the Leeds polygon area to be covered by Leeds Digital Media Ltd, the small scale multiplex,

Akash Radio Leeds has been built on the previous 14 years of experience, as an RSL license and later as Community Radio service. It has built a strong bond with its target community through consultation process for provision of programmes of their choice. In addition to providing entertainment music, Akash Radio Leeds caters for spiritual music, i.e Gurbani Keertan for Sikhs, Bhajans for Hindus and Naaths for Muslim community. It also provides information to raise awareness and knowledge of support facilities and opportunities provided by local authority, Primary Care NHS Trusts, education, employment and enterprise institutions. It will continue to cater for the interests of these communities through the DAB service.

- 3.6 How will you ensure that your proposed C-DSP service is run on a not-for-profit basis? Please give details of specific measures or arrangements in place to ensure this, and how any profit will be wholly and exclusively used for securing or improving the future provision of the service, or for the delivery of social gain. **Answer in fewer than 400 words.**

Akash Radio Leeds Ltd is a company limited by guarantee, a not-for-profit distributing organisation. When any surplus is made it is ploughed back in to the organisation's reserve fund for improving and sustaining the service or in providing training benefits to the target community.

Akash Radio Leeds Ltd generates income by sale of air time or seek sponsorships from small businesses in and around the locality, receives donations from listeners, apply for grants from local authority and other public bodies, raise funds by organising fund raising events like annual dinner dance and saving on wages by due to time given by the volunteers in-kind. The funds generated are exclusively used to cover the overhead costs of running the radio service which includes rent of the premises, utility bills, telephone charges, insurance cover for public liability and building contents, various annual license fees, purchase of capital equipment, training of staff and community training. Any profit or surplus created in the year is retained and ploughed back into the organisation and used for securing or improving the future provision of the service, or for the delivery of social gain.

Social gain

- 3.7 What community benefits will your service bring to your target community(ies) and, if applicable, the general public. Please include summaries of evidence to support your answer, including details about other organisations you intend to work with. **Answer in fewer than 500 words. Please do not provide names of individuals in your answer.**

Akash Radio Leeds has been established for the last 14 years, firstly as an RSL services and later became a community radio station (Licence No CR100143BA/1) to serve the Punjabi speaking communities from both Punjabs, from India and Pakistan. The key community benefits it brought are:

- promoted and retained Punjabi language and culture through providing Punjabi folk and spiritual music, talks and discussions. It is a well known fact that the next generation of a community would lose its identity if it is deprived of its vernacular language and culture.
- gave values of Sikh faith to the younger generation, how to be a good citizen by following the three fundamental principles of life i.e., must work to earn a living by honest and sincere means, share with others especially those who are less fortunate than yourself and meditate for the peace of soul and mind.
- gave an easy access for volunteers to visit the station because it is based in the heart of the community,
- it is one of the key commitments of Akash Radio Leeds to encourage the engagement and training of volunteers for the running the radio service. They are trained in various aspects of operating a radio service. They get one to one training from the senior members of the management team and get work experience initially by sitting next to an experienced presenter. The training includes from planning events, researching contents of programs, compliance of rules and regulations and in use of studio equipment to operate the radio service. It provides them the opportunities for Learning and developing their life skills, in communication and presentation and gained confidence and self esteem to apply for waged jobs in the mainstream.
- encouraged volunteers to join the Akash Radio Leeds Advisory group . The role of Advisory group is to propose, recommend or criticise the running of the radio service. The Advisory group is also privy to company accounts and can make recommendations in increasing income generation and how the surplus should be spent in order to better the service.
- built in roads with public bodies like NHS, Police, Learning Institutions to raise awareness of provision of their services to the community. This has given our listeners the opportunity to join them. Some examples are, volunteers trained to become spiritual care volunteers in the chaplaincy service in NHS, joined food banks to serve Langar (hot food) to the needy, especially elderly members of the community and young people were supported with school work and prepared for GCSE exams and promoted employment and enterprise initiatives, collaborated with local NHS and BBC Radio Leeds, to disseminate messages from the Government on Covid-19 updates.

3.8 Please summarise how your service will facilitate discussion and the expression of opinion. Answer in fewer than 200 words.

The start up of Akash Radio Leeds as a community service was the result of the discussion with the community and the feedback received confirmed the need for a community radio station for the Punjabi speaking communities in Leeds.

Akash Radio Leeds does not only provide entertainment music but facilitate discussions and expression of opinion on current local and national issues that impact on the community. Debates are also held on-air to allow community to express their opinion on the issues being discussed.

Akash Radio Leeds has set up an Advisory group which holds open meetings on regular basis to ensure the engagement of community members which have proved to be very useful for discussions on improvement of the service. It was community's suggestion to introduce programmes that raise awareness of various subjects, like the issue of mental health and wellbeing in the community, provision of chaplaincy service in hospitals for Sikh and Hindu patients, need of support for children's education and Government guidance on the safety from Covid-19.

Community surveys are another tool used for expression of opinion..

- 3.9 How will you ensure that members of your target community(ies) can gain access to the facilities used to provide your service, and receive training in using these? In particular, please set out how this will be done practically, formally and/or informally. **Answer in fewer than 400 words.**

Akash Radio Leeds premises are based in the heart of the target communities and it always endeavoured to provide a full and open access to the community to visit and view the operation of the studio.

Akash Radio Leeds is operated and managed by volunteers who are an essential part of community service and without their dedicated, enthusiastic voluntary support our radio station could not have survived.

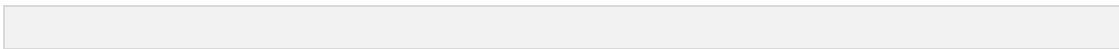
The Management Committee is always in search of new members from its communities. Announcements are made over the radio service and in addition advertised in social media – Facebook, Whatsapp groups, and website for the recruitment of volunteers.

Akash Radio Leeds has set up an Advisory group made up of local people from the area. It organised open meetings and encouraged community to attend to learn about all the things that go into the running of a radio station, the role of programme assistants, journalists, producers, IT support, interviewers and much more. The community members also get to know on the operational and the financial situation of the company. From the open door policy we have re-

ceived feedback from the community that, as AM (Medium Wave) frequency seems to be reducing in car radios, as well as in some radio sets in homes. They requested for DAB service as its usage is on the increase. The small scale DAB presents an opportunity to Akash Radio Leeds to simulcast its service to reach its target community via the digital path.

To encourage the volunteers in joining the service they are informed, that they are not to have to make a big commitment; they can volunteer as little or as much as they would like. Whether they want to pop in for a few hours once every couple of weeks or join our busy core team of programme assistants and producers that our door is open for them. No prior experience of radio is required – just a willingness to learn and be enthused to get stuck in. They are also offered opportunities to participate in the operation and management of the service.

We are pleased that the open door policy has helped to recruit a number of volunteers and have got actively involved in various activities at the station as they realised that it is a vehicle for their personal development as well.



3.10 How will your service provide better understanding of your target community and the strengthening of links within it? **Answer in fewer than 200 words.**

Akash Radio Leeds is built on the previous 14 years of experience, as an RSL radio and later as Community Radio service. It caters for the Punjabi speaking communities. The target group is mainly of Sikhs and Hindus, although there is a significant number of Punjabi speaking Muslim community in the target area. We have built a stronger and trustworthy bond with our listeners through consultation, discussion and by seeking opinion on the type of service they would like to have.

We consult local people and through these consultations and discussions suggestions were received to introduce new programmes that raise awareness of public sector facilities available for the community. Many such programmes were arranged, like the role of chaplaincy service in hospitals and how the community could access it, mental health care provision available especially for those who faced difficulties in education and employment, information about the care of the vulnerable elderly in the community who live on their own and keeping target community informed about Government guidance on Covid-19 and many more.

We also advise the local small businesses regarding Government support available in the present Covid-19 pandemic situation.

- 3.11 Please summarise the relevant experience of the group or its members in activities related to the provision of social gain or other relevant non-broadcast areas (such as third sector, training or education). **Answer in fewer than 200 words.**

The volunteers having greatly benefitted in developing their life skills they have gained confidence to take on new activities. A number of them responded to requests from mainstream organisations to promote and support their schemes.

Examples of such involvement as follows:

- A volunteer of the Akash Radio Leeds team was asked to give a talk to the staff of Leeds and York Partnership NHS Trust on mental health and wellbeing in the Indian community. This followed an in depth discussion among the staff and the volunteer.
- Three Akash Radio Leeds volunteers undertook training for chaplaincy service and joined Leeds Teaching Hospital NHS Trust as Spiritual Care volunteers in the chaplaincy to support Sikh and Hindu patients.
- A group of volunteers worked with the homeless people by setting up a stall in the city centre for to distribute free food (Langar) to the homeless.
- Akash Radio Leeds formed partnership with REEMAP Trading Ltd, a training organisation supporting young people in secondary schools with their home work and preparation for their examinations. A number of children from the community joined REEMAP for preparing for their GCSE examination.

Participation

- 3.12 How do you propose to ensure that members of your target community(ies) are given opportunities to participate in the operation and management of the service? **Answer in fewer than 400 words.**

Akash Radio Leeds is a product of the short term radio service under RSL which was run by the efforts of the current Chairman. The key object was to give a new voice to the Punjabi speaking communities across Leeds bringing community benefits such as devotional music, community news, discussion and training. It promoted the work of various deprived community groups, from youth projects to day care centers for the elderly, raised their awareness on issues affecting them. It brought together a number of Gurudwaras (Sikh Temples) in Leeds to work together when holding common events like Nagar Keertan (music procession to City Hall).

One of the key objectives of Akash Radio Leeds is to ensure the engagement of its members in both the operation and management of the station. It relies on the participation of its dedicated, enthusiastic volunteers, without whom the radio service could not have continued. In return, the participants gain a number of special key skills which help in their personal development. This encourages them to take on increasing roles and responsibilities in the operation of the service.

Regular open meetings are held with members of the local community to discuss operational issues, publicity ideas, new programming and get input into project development. Volunteers are trained in management skills and encouraged to take on station management duties. Regular workshops are held for volunteers to develop any areas of skills that they need to improve.

The Akash Radio Leeds Management Committee is always in search of new volunteers from its membership. Any volunteer can put themselves forward to serve a three-year term of office on the management committee. This provides them good opportunity for their personal development and on becoming directors of the company, teaches them to learn new management responsibilities.

We have found that many community members are apprehensive of being on the Management Committee because of the legal responsibilities of being a company director. We have therefore formed the community Radio Advisory Group in order to ensure that we get real community representation into the operation and direction of the station as this is vital to the success of the project.

Accountability

3.13 How will members of your target community contact your service and influence its operation? **Answer in fewer than 300 words.**

Akash Radio Leeds is community project rooted in the communities it serves. One of the key objectives is to ensure the engagement of its members in both the operation and management of the station.

Our contact details, i.e. studio telephone numbers, website address, face book address are regularly announced and advertised on posters and banners inviting community members to get in touch.

Under the management group of Akash Radio Leeds we have set up an Advisory Group made up of Management group and volunteers to support the work of the radio station. The role of the Advisory Group, in addition to receiving feedback on the activities of the station, suggestions or criticism for improvement, is to encourage the involvement of the community.

The Advisory group has access to reports, both in terms of operation and financial accountability of the service which are available for the community members to view. When the community is fully involved it gets encouragement to take on roles in the running of the service.

Advisory group is also a route for volunteers to become operators. The 23 current volunteers joined the service through the Advisory group.

3.14 How will suggestions and/or criticisms from members of your target community(ies) be considered and acted upon? **Answer in fewer than 300 words.**

It is the key objective of Akash Radio Leeds to ensure the engagement of volunteers, both in the operation and management of the station. Regular open meetings are held with volunteers to discuss operational issues, publicity ideas, new programming and get input into project development. Volunteers are encouraged to become members of the Advisory group.

Akash Radio Leeds has defined suggestions and complaints procedure as summarised below:

Under the Board of Akash Radio Leeds Ltd is the Management group headed by the Managing Director plus all the Company directors with the responsibility for the management and operation of the company.

Under the Management group is the Advisory group headed by Programme controller with 6 – 9 members from the community/volunteers and is responsible to receive suggestions and any criticism of the service.

Advisory group actively encourages and welcomes suggestions for improving the service and if appropriate pass them to Management group for action. Any criticism from listeners will be taken on board and discussed in the Advisory group who will consider it before passing to the Management group. The necessary action will be taken and then discussed with the complainant to ensure their satisfaction.

Volunteers are trained by the experienced members of Akash Radio Leeds and encouraged to take management duties. Regular workshops are held for volunteers to develop any areas of skills that they need to develop.

Draft Key Commitments

Service name: *the on-air name of the programme service (as in question 3.1 of this application)*

Akash Radio Leeds

Proposed radio multiplex service: *as in question 3.2 of this application, specify if small-scale or local multiplex the radio station plans to broadcast on*

Leeds Digital Media – Small scale Multiplex

Description of target audience:

Akash Radio Leeds caters for the Punjabi speaking communities, mainly Sikhs and Hindus and a significant number of Punjabi speaking Muslims.

Description of locality, which can be all of, or a subset of, the area covered by the radio multiplex service specified above:

The service will be provided within the Leeds polygon area to be covered by Leeds Digital Media Ltd, the small scale Multiplex service, in Chapeltown, Chapel Allerton, Moortown, Hyde Park, Carr Manors, Alwoodley, Roundhay, Adel, Stanningley, Middleton, Gipton & Harehills, Temple Newsham, Armley, West Park, Weetwood, Morley North, Crossgates and Beeston & Holbeck. All these areas are.

Brief statement of main purpose of the radio service, its functions/activities: *describe in no more than 50 words*

We promote and develop Punjabi language and culture through the provision of social, cultural and spiritual music and talks; and encourage volunteer participation in the operation and management of the service; build links with outside institutions for providing education, training and help with employment and enterprise opportunities to the community.

The text below is included in the Key Commitments in all C-DSP licences, and does not need to be amended or augmented. Every service is required to comply with these requirements, but the details of how each service does so do not need to be included in the Key Commitments.

The studio of the Licensed Service is located within the coverage area of the Small-Scale Radio Multiplex Service identified above (n.b. the Licensee will not be in breach of this requirement if an existing studio ceases to fall within the coverage area merely as a result of technical changes to the Small-Scale Radio Multiplex Service outside the control of the Licensee).

The Licensed Service shall have the characteristics of a Community Digital Sound Programme Service as set out in the 2019 Order and, in so doing, shall achieve the following objectives:

- **the facilitation of discussion and the expression of opinion,**
- **the provision (whether by means of programmes included in the service or otherwise) of education or training to individuals not employed by the person providing the service, and**
- **the better understanding of the particular community and the strengthening of links within it.**

Members of the target community shall contribute to the operation and management of the service.

The service shall have mechanisms in place to ensure it is accountable to its target community in the specific area or locality.

4. Compliance of the service

About this section

This section asks you to describe the compliance arrangements for the proposed licensed service, i.e. the arrangements which the applicant will put in place to ensure that the content it proposes to broadcast will comply with the relevant regulatory codes and rules for programming and advertising. These include:

- The Ofcom Broadcasting Code
- The BCAP Code: the UK Code of Broadcast Advertising
- The Phone-paid Services Authority Code of Practice

Condition 17 of a C-DSP licence requires that you have compliance procedures in place, and this section asks that you demonstrate your ability to meet this licence condition.

Before completing this section of the form you should read Section 4 of the [C-DSP guidance notes](#), where you will also find links to the codes and rules listed above.

- 4.1 Will the individual named as Compliance Contact in response to question 2.3 in Part B have overall responsibility for compliance for the duration of the licence?

Yes/No (delete as appropriate)

- 4.2 Please give details of all compliance training and compliance experience (including dates) the person named in response to question 2.3 in Part B has received in the relevant codes and rules (for example, those referred to in the box at the start of this section).

The Managing Director is the named Compliance Officer in section 2.3 in Part B. He has managed community radios for the last 14 years and has extensive management and broadcasting experience. He is familiar with the relevant Ofcom's Compliance Procedures and aware of the Broadcasting and Advertising codes and rules.

The Compliance Officer is supported by the Programme Controller who has the responsibility to train staff and volunteers in operation of the radio service, and by the Strategic Liaison Officer.

The liaison Officer is the key contact with Ofcom. He has acquired the knowledge of the broadcasting and advertising rules and regulations gained by referring to the appropriate codes and updates received from Ofcom. He ensures that this information is passed on to the Managing Director and Programme Controller in the monthly meetings or as and when necessary.

- 4.3 How many staff does the applicant have (or plan to have) in its compliance team? Please provide a brief description of the functions each person will be performing. Please do not give names of individual members of staff.

There are three members from the Management group in the Compliance team.

The team consists of

- Managing Director as Compliance Contact,
- Programme Controller as trainer of Broadcasting rules and regulations
- Strategic Liaison Officer as main contact with Ofcom to update regulations and support Managing Director and the Programme Controller.

The team has studied the rules and regulations of broadcasting and advertising as per Ofcom's codes and prepared a booklet for easy reference.

- 4.4 How does the applicant intend to train staff in compliance procedures? Please include details of the compliance training that will be given to those responsible for live programming, including compliance staff, presenters and producers.

Staff Training

The Strategic Liaison Officer who is responsible in dealing with Ofcom for all matters to ensure that the Managing Director and the Programme Control are regularly informed of updates of Ofcom's Compliance procedures.

The Managing Director and Programme Controller work with all staff and volunteers to ensure that the Broadcasting and advertising codes are understood and always followed. The training is based as per Ofcom's guidance.

The Programme Controller gives training to all presenters before they start presenting programmes on air to ensure that the code is understood and always followed. Regular workshops are held to make volunteers aware of compliance of broadcasting and advertising codes, rules and regulations. The codes are constantly refreshed with volunteers on regular basis, at least once a month. Training given to all those presenters who are responsible for live programming , include details of the compliance training on the broadcasting code to ensure that all content that is broadcasted is redeemed legal, in the right context and to the broadcasting code.

All presenters are asked to confirm that they have grasped the knowledge of broadcasting and advertising codes, rules and regulations by signing the confirmation form on completion of the training.

- 4.5 It is a licence requirement that a licensee must ensure that all programming on its service (broadcast at any time of the day or night) complies with Ofcom’s codes and rules (e.g. Ofcom’s Broadcasting Code, which sets requirements on standards to be observed in programme content for the protection of the public). Set out in detail below the systems the applicant intends to have in place to ensure it will be able to comply with the codes and rules at all times while the service is broadcasting, in particular when the service is broadcasting live content but also when pre-recorded material⁴ is being broadcast.

To comply with Ofcom codes and rules we have set up the compliance team with the role to train staff and volunteers in the Broadcasting and advertising codes and ensure the presenters become capable to observe these codes when preparing programme content.

We provide during the induction training to all new volunteers the information on these codes and rules as well as frequently hold refresher courses for all staff for remaining compliant. All presenters have to sign forms to confirm that they will comply to these rules.

We have staff members to ensure that live content that is being aired is suitable, and they are trained to cancel or stop any broadcast they deem unsuitable.

- 4.6 Please set out how you will ensure compliance with your Key Commitments, including how you will maintain up-to-date information on how these are being delivered.

⁴ This could include, for example, material obtained from, or streamed from, third-party sources as well as content produced by the licensee.

All our presenters are informed of the Key Commitments we have agreed to deliver and are asked to comply with them regularly. The Managing Director and the Programme Controller monitor all presenters to ensure they remember the delivery of the Key Commitments and if in any doubt the respective presenter is marked for refresher training. We have staff meetings to inform and highlight the Commitments delivered and praise those members who delivered them.

4.7 What language(s) does the applicant intend to broadcast in?

Punjabi, English, Hindi/Urdu and Gujarati

4.8 For each language listed in response to question 4.7, please provide details of how many compliance team member(s) are fluent in each language and will be responsible for ensuring that content broadcast in that language complies with the Ofcom's code and rules.

Please do not give names of individual members of staff.

We have three members in the Compliance Team who are fluent in the following languages and will be responsible for ensuring the content broadcast in the respective language complies with the Ofcom's code and rules.

Punjabi – 3 members

English – 3 Members

Hindi /Urdu – 2 Members

Gujarati – 1 Member

5. Declaration

About this section

This form must be submitted by the applicant named in response to question 2.2. An agent may not sign **the form**.

The person authorised to make the declaration on behalf of the applicant must print their name and must be one of the following :

- A director of the company or the company secretary where the applicant is a company.
- A designated member where the applicant is a Limited Liability Partnership.

The declaration must also be dated.

- 5.1 I hereby apply to Ofcom for the grant of a licence for the community digital sound programme service described above and declare that the information given in this application form is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, correct.
- 5.2 I further declare and warrant:
- a) that I am not a disqualified person within the meaning of that expression as defined in Part II of Schedule 2 to the Broadcasting Act 1990, as amended, or as a result of a disqualification order under Section 145 of the Broadcasting Act 1996;
 - b) that having made all reasonable enquiries neither the applicant nor any person controlling the applicant, as a result of the grant to me of the licence, breach any requirement of Schedule 14 to the Communications Act 2003 with regard to the accumulation of interests in broadcasting services or to the restrictions on cross-media interests; and
 - c) that the applicant is not disqualified by virtue of the provisions of section 143 (5) of the Broadcasting Act 1996 in relation to political objects and the provisions of section 144 (3) of the Broadcasting Act 1996 in relation to the provision of false information or through the withholding of information with the intention of misleading Ofcom; and
 - d) that no director or person concerned directly or indirectly in the management of the applicant is subject to a disqualification order as defined by section 145 (1) of the Broadcasting Act 1996.
- 5.3 I understand that Ofcom reserves the right to revoke the licence (if granted) if at any time any material statement made to Ofcom is found to be false and to have been by the applicant or any member or officer thereof knowing it to be false. I also understand that under sections 144 and 145 of the Broadcasting Act 1996, the provision of false information could incur a criminal conviction and a disqualification from the holding of a Broadcasting Act licence. I further certify that, to the best of my knowledge, any matters which might influence Ofcom's judgement as to whether the directors and any other individuals and/or bodies corporate with substantial involvement in this application are fit and proper persons to participate in a radio licence, have been made known to Ofcom.

C-DSP licence: Application form (Part A)

Full name (BLOCK CAPITALS) of the applicant or person authorised to make the application of behalf of the applicant:

GURDEV SINGH DAHELE – MBE, Director

Signed: G S Dahele

Date of application:

23 December 2020

I am authorised to make this application on behalf of the applicant in my capacity as (**delete as appropriate**):

~~Company secretary / company director / designated member (in the case of a Limited Liability Partnership)~~

You now need to complete the confidential section (Part B) of the application form