
Small-scale radio multiplex licence

Application form – Part A (public)

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

BEDFORD DIGITAL LIMITED

Multiplex licence area being applied for (note this must be a small-scale multiplex area *currently being advertised* by Ofcom):

BEDFORD

APPLICATION FORM:

Publication date: 25 January 2022

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1. Overview

The purpose of this form

- 1.1 You should complete this form if you are applying for a licence to provide a small-scale radio multiplex service (a 'small-scale radio multiplex licence'). A small-scale radio multiplex service is the means by which DAB digital radio stations ('digital sound programme services') are broadcast, and can transmit around ten stereo digital sound programme services (or a significantly higher number if the DAB+ standard is utilised). The 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 separately.
- 1.2 Small-scale radio multiplex licences are awarded by Ofcom in a competitive process. Applications are judged against specified criteria, and Ofcom awards the licence to the applicant which it considers best meets the criteria.

How to complete the form

- 1.3 There are detailed instructions on how to complete this form, and information on the next steps in the application process, in our [guidance notes](#) for licence applicants and licensees. Please read this guidance and the frequently asked questions carefully before completing this form.
- 1.4 If you still have a query having read the guidance and FAQ, you can contact Ofcom's Broadcast Licensing team by email (smallscaledab@ofcom.org.uk). The team cannot provide advice or pre-approve applications but can answer general questions.
- 1.5 Please download this form and fill it in on a computer. If completing by hand, please use block capitals and black ink.
- 1.6 Please answer all the questions as fully as possible, use extra sheets if required and provide the supporting documentation listed at Section 7 of Part B of the application form. Sufficient information must be supplied about the applicant and the proposed service to enable Ofcom to consider the application in accordance with the statutory criteria for the granting of small-scale radio multiplex licences. Ofcom may need to request further details from you before a licence can be granted.
- 1.7 Ofcom reserves the right to reject applications made using an old version of the form.
- 1.8 Ofcom will accept handwritten application forms, but they must be filled in using block capitals and black ink.
- 1.9 Ofcom reserves the right to reject application forms that are illegible.
- 1.10 You must answer all questions in the application form and respond "N/A" to any questions that do not apply to the applicant.
- 1.11 Ofcom reserves the right to reject applications which do not meet the following criteria:

- a) The declarations in Section 6 of this form and in Section 8 of Part B of the application form must both be signed and dated.
 - b) The person who signs and makes the declaration on behalf of the applicant must be:
 - i) A director of the company or the company secretary where the applicant is a company.
 - ii) A designated member where the applicant is a Limited Liability Partnership.
 - c) All supporting documents as requested in the checklist at Section 7 of Part B of the application form must be supplied in legible form and translated into English where applicable.
- 1.12 If you are completing the form as an agent, i.e. you are acting on the applicant's behalf, please note that you cannot sign it on your client's behalf, and that the person signing the form needs to have personally checked the truth and completeness of the responses given. If your client wishes you to be Ofcom's main contact in relation to the application, please make this clear in an accompanying letter, and provide evidence of your authority to act on behalf of the applicant. The form should be filled in so as to include information about the applicant, not the agent. If Ofcom has further questions once the application has been submitted, we will direct these to the applicant, not to the agent, but we will accept responses from the agent.

How to submit the form

- 1.13 We prefer application forms and required supporting documents to be submitted by email to smallscaledab@ofcom.org.uk. Handwritten applications and required supporting documents should be scanned and attached to the email.
- 1.14 You should receive a response from smallscaledab@ofcom.org.uk confirming that your application has been received by Ofcom. If you do not receive a response, it is likely your application has not been received and you should contact Ofcom's Contact Centre on 0300 123 3333 and ask for the Broadcast Licensing team who will be able to confirm if your application was received.
- 1.15 If the applicant cannot submit the application form and/or the supporting documentation by email, the applicant may submit the application and/or the supporting documentation by post to:
- Ofcom
Broadcast Licensing
Riverside House
2a Southwark Bridge Road
London
SE1 9HA
- 1.16 Those applicants who submit their application by post will be sent an acknowledgement.

Application fee

- 1.17 A non-refundable application fee of £500 is payable either by cheque made out to 'Ofcom' or by bank transfer.
- 1.18 Applications will not be assessed until the application fee has been received in Ofcom's bank account.
- 1.19 Ofcom requests that applicants pay the application fee by bank transfer and that immediately after the applicant has instructed their bank to make the payment, confirmation of payment is emailed to ofcom.remittances@ofcom.org.uk.
- 1.20 To ensure that Ofcom can identify the payment, it must include a payment reference which is the applicant's postcode followed by the applicant's name (or as much of the name as is possible to provide within the character limit set by the bank) as provided in response to question 3.1 of this application.
- 1.21 The bank details to be used to pay the application fee are:
- Account Name: Office of Communications
- Bank details: Lloyds Bank, 69-73 Borough High Street, London SE1 1NQ
- Account number: 00782415
- Sort code: 30-97-90
- BIC: LOYDGB21351
- IBAN: GB05 LOYD 3097 9000 7824 15
- SWIFT: LOYD GB 2L
- 1.22 If the applicant is unable to make the payment by bank transfer, a cheque should be made out to 'Ofcom' and sent in the post to Ofcom Broadcast Licensing team, Riverside House, 2a Southwark Bridge Road, London SE1 9HA. You must state the name of the applicant as provided in response to question 3.2 and proposed service name on the back of the cheque.
- 1.23 If an applicant is paying the application fee by cheque, the cheque must be received within five days of the application being received by Ofcom or the application may be rejected. If an applicant's cheque bounces, the application may be rejected.

Supporting documentation

- 1.24 You must provide a range of supporting documentation when submitting this application form. Please refer to the checklist at Section 7 of Part B of the application form for full details. Please note that failure to supply the necessary documents will delay your application.
- 1.25 Ofcom reserves the right to reject applications with which the necessary documents are not supplied in legible form.

- 1.26 Please note that Ofcom cannot receive emails larger than 35MB. If your application email exceeds this limit, please send your supporting documents in a separate email(s), clearly indicating the applicant's name in the subject line of the email.

Provision of information

- 1.27 Ofcom requires complete and accurate information to assess applications. In particular, we must be satisfied that those applying for a licence are 'fit and proper' to hold a licence and are not disqualified from participation in a licence.
- 1.28 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 applications

- 1.29 Part A of the application form (i.e. this document) will be published by Ofcom on our website as soon as practicable following the closing-date for applications. Because this is the 'public' part of the application form, and Ofcom is legally required to publish applications for public comments, *no questions* should be answered by means of the submission of a confidential annex. If, for logistical reasons, an annex is required to answer a question in Part A of the form, this will be published on our website alongside Part A of the application form. Part B of the application form will remain confidential.
- 1.30 Ofcom may take into account any comments received from the public, which can be made to it with respect to Part A of the application submitted.
- 1.31 In submitting Part A of the application, you agree that Ofcom may publish contact details for the licensee, which may include personal data, on the Ofcom website and/or in other relevant publications.
- 1.32 When a licence is granted, the name of the service and public contact details for the licensee will be published on the Ofcom website. These are the details supplied by the applicant in the application form. 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 (smallscaledab@ofcom.org.uk).
- 1.33 Ofcom considers issued small-scale radio multiplex licences to be public documents and copies of licences will be made available to third parties on request, noting that personal data apart from the name of the licensee may be redacted.

Data protection

- 1.34 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 more information about how we handle your personal information and your corresponding rights.

Keeping up to date with broadcasting matters

- 1.35 We strongly recommend that you subscribe to receive Ofcom's regular email updates on broadcasting matters. These include a [monthly radio licensing update](#) that lists new services licensed, licences revoked, licence transfers, and changes to licensed services during the past month. To subscribe to these updates, please visit www.ofcom.org.uk/about-ofcom/latest/email-updates and select 'Broadcasting'.

2. Extent of proposed coverage area

About this section

Under section 51(2)(a) of the 1996 Act, we are required to consider the extent of the coverage area an applicant proposes to achieve within the area which has been advertised. This section therefore asks you to describe the coverage you are proposing to achieve. Further questions on the detailed technical arrangements for the proposed service, including questions on the transmission site(s) that you intend to use and your plans for how the multiplexing and distribution of your service will be arranged are contained in Part B of the application form.

Before completing this section of the form, you should read carefully the notes on 'Extent of proposed coverage area' in Section 4 of Ofcom's [guidance notes for licence applicants and licensees](#).

Applicants should note there are confidential questions relating to extent of coverage area in Part B of the application form.

- 2.1 Please provide a summary, fully consistent with the more detailed information about transmission sites supplied separately in Part B, of the coverage area proposed to be achieved by your technical plan. This should include a description of the target area you are seeking to serve within the advertised licence area, and also any areas you are aiming to serve outside the advertised licence area for this small-scale radio multiplex service. (You may refer to your coverage prediction in the response you provide):

We propose to serve the Bedford polygon from 2 transmitter sites located to ensure maximum coverage. The network will cover approximately 87% of the target polygon as specified by OfCom including the towns of Bedford & Biggleswade as well as surrounding villages.

- 2.2 Please provide summary details of the sites required to achieve this coverage by completing the table below (add additional rows as required):

Site name	NGR	Antenna height (m agl)	Antenna type proposed with bearing	New or existing antenna	ERP (W)
Clapham	TL 0387354511	54	Omni	New	100
Biggleswade	TL 2154440235	25	Directional 330 deg ETN	New	100

- 2.3 Please provide a coverage prediction map for the whole transmitter network you are proposing to build within 18 months if you are awarded a licence. The map should show the 63 dBµV/m field strength and the advertised small-scale DAB licence area contour. [Small-scale DAB licence areas in GIS format](#) are available on the Ofcom website.

2.4 Please provide the following details of the prediction software used for your coverage assessments:

Provide the name and version of the prediction tool used.	ICS Telecom 13	
Detail the terrain model used by the software and its resolution.	OS 50m Terrain	
Detail the ground cover (clutter) data used by the software and its resolution.	DEFRA & OSM 25m	
What propagation algorithm has been used?	Deygout 94 v1	
Where multiple sites are proposed, describe what methodology has been used to assess the network (SFN) gain	Power Sum	
If these predictions have not used Ofcom-provided population data, state what population data has been used and its source.	Ofcom supplied data used	
Have your predictions been generated by a commercial organisation? If so, by whom?	Cotswold Group	

3. Ability to establish the proposed service

About this section

In Section 3, we are asking questions about the applicant company, its financial and business plan, the relevant expertise and experience of those who will be involved in providing the small-scale radio multiplex service, and the timetable for coverage roll-out. The answers to these questions will enable Ofcom to assess the application under section 51(2)(c) of the 1996 Act. Additional information is requested in Part B of the application form.

In the first 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 small-scale radio multiplex 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 properness to hold a small-scale radio multiplex licence.

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).

The remaining questions in Section 3 relate to the applicant's financial and business plan, the expertise and experience of those involved, and the planned timetable for launching the proposed multiplex service.

Applicants should note there are confidential questions relating to extent of coverage area in Part B of the application form.

Applicant's details

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

Bedford Digital Limited

3.2 Company registration number stated on Companies House (if applicable):

14061591

3.3 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:

Bedford i-Kan Business Centre
 38 Mill Street
 Bedford
 MK40 3HD

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

No (the version on the Companies House website is awaiting update so may be out of date)

If no, please submit the up-to-date document and indicate you have done so in the checklist in Section 7 of Part B of the application form.

Ownership and control of company which will hold the licence

Details of officers

3.5 Please complete the following table, expanding it if necessary, to provide the following details for each director or designated member of the applicant (i.e. the body corporate that will hold the licence):

Full name of individual	Correspondence address ¹	Country of residence	Other officerships held (and nature of the business concerned)	Other employment
Anthony Royston Dibbin (also known as Tony Dibbin)	6 Nightingale Court, Wixams, Bedford, MK42 6BD Alternative address held by Companies House: The Limes, 1339 High Road, London, N20 9HR	England	Member and Director of Bedford Broadcasting Ltd (C-DSP applicant for Bedford SSDAB multiplex and shareholder in applicant) Sole shareholder and Director of Tony Dibbin Ltd (Events and radio production company) Shareholder and Director of Arena Radio Ltd (DSP service provider and proposed service on applicant multiplex)	

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

<p>Christopher Robert Gregg (also known as Chris Gregg)</p>	<p>4 Brindlebrook, Two Mile Ash, Milton Keynes, MK8 8EU Alternative address held by Companies House: 8 Dakota House, 50 Mortimer Square, Milton Keynes, United Kingdom, MK9 2FB</p>	<p>England</p>	<p>Director and Member of Horizon Radio Ltd (C-DSP applicant for Milton Keynes SSDAB multiplex and intending to provide a service on the applicant's multiplex) Director of MK Digital Media Ltd (SSDAB multiplex applicant for Milton Keynes) Director of TAZ Leisure Ltd (concert events company operating nationally)</p>	<p>Willen Hospice</p>
<p>Ian Hickling</p>	<p>6 Horn Street, Compton, Newbury, RG20 6QS</p>	<p>England</p>	<p>Member of Horizon Radio Ltd (C-DSP applicant for Milton Keynes SSDAB multiplex and intending to provide a service on the applicant's multiplex) Director of BGFM Ltd (Community Radio station in Blaenau Gwent) Director of 3 C Broadcasting Ltd (dormant company)T</p>	<p>transplan UK</p>

Details of participants

3.6 Please complete the table overleaf, expanding it if necessary, to list all bodies or individuals which hold or are beneficially entitled to shares, or who possess voting powers, in the applicant (i.e. the "participants"). 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.

(If parts of this question are not applicable to the applicant – for example, because the applicant does not have shareholders – please respond "N/A" in the relevant parts of the table.)

Full name of participant (existing and proposed)	Number of shares	Total investment (£s)	Total investment (%)	% of voting rights
Bedford Broadcasting Ltd	1	0	0	33
Christopher Robert Gregg	1	20,000	50	33
Ian Hickling	1	20,000	50	33
Comments				

Details of relationships of control

- 3.7 Complete the following table, expanding it if necessary, to list any bodies corporate which are controlled *by* the applicant, any director of the applicant, any person/body corporate with control over the applicant, or any body corporate controlled by a person/body corporate controlling the applicant. Please include bodies corporate under joint control – i.e. which are controlled acting together in concert with third parties (e.g. because of a shareholder’s agreement):

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

Full name of body corporate	Address	Person/body controlling the entity (i.e. the applicant itself or its associate)
N/A		

Details of persons who control the applicant

- 3.8 Complete the table overleaf, expanding it if necessary, *to list all persons/bodies corporate who control the applicant*, or control any person/body corporate with control over the applicant. Please include persons or bodies that control the applicant (or body corporate with control over the applicant) jointly i.e. acting together in concert with third parties (e.g. because of a shareholder’s agreement). Please note that some of this information may repeat information provided above on shareholders and other participants in the applicant:

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

Full name of person/body corporate	Address	Person/body controlled by the entity (i.e. the applicant itself or its associate)
Bedford Broadcasting Ltd	Bedford i-Kan Business Centre 38 Mill Street Bedford MK40 3HD	Holds 33% of Applicant organisation (Bedford Digital Ltd)

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Anthony Royston Dibbin (also known as Tony Dibbin)	6 Nightingale Court Wixams Bedford MK42 6BD	Holds 50% of Bedford Broadcasting Ltd
Nikki James Fox (also known as Nik Fox)	3 Dog Rose Drive Bourne Lincolnshire PE10 0FG	Holds 50% of Bedford Broadcasting Ltd
Christopher Robert Gregg (also known as Chris Gregg)	4 Brindlebrook Two Mile Ash Milton Keynes MK8 8EU	Holds 33% of Applicant organisation (Bedford Digital Ltd)
Ian Hickling	6 Horn Street Compton Newbury RG20 6QS	Holds 33% of Applicant organisation (Bedford Digital Ltd)

3.9 Complete the following table, expanding it if necessary, to list other bodies in which any individual listed in response to question 3.8 is a director or designated member:

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

Full name of individual	Name of body in which individual is a director or designated member
Christopher Robert Gregg	Horizon Radio Ltd
Christopher Robert Gregg	MK Digital Media Ltd
Christopher Robert Gregg	TAZ Leisure Ltd
Ian Hickling	Horizon Radio Ltd
Ian Hickling	BGFM Ltd
Ian Hickling	3 C Broadcasting Ltd
Anthony Royston Dibbin	Bedford Broadcasting Ltd
Anthony Royston Dibbin	Tony Dibbin Ltd
Anthony Royston Dibbin	Arena Radio Ltd
Nikki James Fox	Bedford Broadcasting Ltd
Nikki James Fox	Cotswold Venture Group Ltd
Nikki James Fox	Horizon Radio Ltd

- 3.10 Complete the following table, expanding it if necessary, to list all bodies corporate which are controlled (including jointly controlled) by any body corporate listed in response to question 3.8:

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

Full name of body corporate listed in 3.8	Body corporate controlled
N/A	

- 3.11 In relation to each body corporate identified in response to question 3.8, complete the table overleaf, expanding it if necessary, to list all bodies which hold or are beneficially entitled to shares, or who possess voting powers, in the body corporate concerned (i.e. “participants”). You may, but are not required to, exclude from this table any bodies listed in response to question 3.8. 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.

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

Name of body corporate identified in response to question 3.8	Bedford Broadcasting Ltd			
Full name of participant	Number of shares	Total investment (£s)	Total investment (%)	% of voting rights
Anthony Royston Dibbin	0	0	0	50
Nikki James Fox	0	0	0	50
Comments				
This is a not for profit company limited by guarantee. The two participants are the only Members and the only Directors of this company and also PSC with 50% control each. This company intends to apply for a C-DSP licence in the name of The River which would be carried on the applicant’s proposed multiplex.				

Involvement of the applicant in specified activities

- 3.12 Please state below whether the applicant, or any individual or body corporate identified in questions 3.5 to 3.11 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
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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	
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

3.13 Please answer 'yes' or 'no' to the following questions about the applicant (i.e. the body corporate that will hold the licence):

a) Is the applicant a current licensee of Ofcom?

No

b) Has the applicant ever held an Ofcom broadcasting licence before?

No

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

Yes

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.

d) Does the applicant control an existing Ofcom licensee?

No

e) 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

f) Has the applicant – or any person(s) controlling 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)?

No

g) Is the applicant – or any person(s) controlling 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?

No

h) 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?

No

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3.14 If the response to any of the questions (a) to (i) in 3.13 above is 'yes', please provide the details, expanding the table where necessary:

	Licence number(s) (if known)	Details
(a)		
(b)		
(c)	CR100797BA/5	MKFM – Christopher Gregg is a former Member, Director and PSC. He is no longer involved with the radio station.
	DP000163BA/4	Thebeat Ltd (broadcasting as MKFM on DAB) – Christopher Gregg is a former shareholder, Director and PSC. He is no longer involved with the radio station.
	CR103405BA/1	Revolution Radio – Ian Hickling is a PSC, Member and Director. Christopher Gregg is a former Member, Director and PSC and remains involved with the station.
	CR000110BA/3	BGFM – Ian Hickling is a non-executive Director (he attends monthly Board meetings and offers advice with an occasional task to provide contact details or information)
(d)		
(e)	CR103405	Revolution Radio - Ian Hickling is a PSC of the applicant company and also a PSC, Member and Director of Revolution Radio.
	DP104405	Arena Radio – Tony Dibbin is a PSC of Bedford Broadcasting Ltd which is a PSC of the applicant company.
(f)		
(g)		
(h)		
(i)		

3.15 Please provide any further information you hold, relating to the past conduct of the applicant or those individuals listed, in regulatory matters or in matters going to honesty and/or compliance, which may be relevant to Ofcom's consideration of whether or not the applicant is fit and proper to hold a broadcast 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 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".

Ian Hickling and Christopher Gregg were Directors of Revolution Radio when the community radio station had a breach of its licence upheld for failing to comply with its key commitments in November 2021.

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

No

If yes, please provide the following details:

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

Financial and business plan

- 3.17 Please provide a high-level estimate of the costs you believe will be required to establish the multiplex service.

Total launch investment: £35,100.

Top level breakdown of expenses:

Multiplex Equipment (Includes all professional services: equipment build; configuration; project management; site survey; installation & rigging; com-missioning and training)	£28,000
Annual technical support & maintenance contract (p/annum)	£1,598
Optimux Software Multiplex management control panel (p/month)	£167
Rental TX site(s) rental and rates (p/annum)	£5,000
Electricity consumption (p/month)	£200
Broadband ISP Dual internet feeds to the multiplex (p/month)	£80
Employer's & public liability insurance (p/annum)	£300
Legal services (one-off prelaunch fee)	£250
Annual provision for sundry items and expenses (p/annum)	£600
Statutory accounts, VAT, corporation tax & confirmation statement. (p/annum)	£600
Management of the multiplex operation and service providers (p/month)	£0
Salaries gross (p/month)	£0
Ofcom Application Fee One-off application fee	£500
Ofcom Licence Fee Annual licence fee	£500
Working capital (loan repayments begin in month 13)	£1,458

3.18 Please indicate how the costs outlined in 3.17 (above) will be met, under the following headings:

- a) Share capital
- b) Loan stock
- c) Leasing/HP facilities (capital value)
- d) Bank overdraft

- e) Grants and donations
- f) Other (please specify): **Directors' loans of £20,000 will be provided by Ian Hickling and Christopher Gregg totalling £40,000**

3.19 Expanding the table if necessary, please list the providers of the funding which will be used to establish the service, and the amount of funding that each will provide. For incorporated investing shareholders, please provide a copy of the most recent statutory accounts if they are not currently available on Companies House.

Name of shareholder or investor	Percentage of shares held (if applicable)	Amount of funding provided (£)
Christopher Gregg	33	20,000
Ian Hickling	33	20,000

3.20 All of the funding identified above should be confirmed. If any funding has not been confirmed, or if there are any pre-conditions before the funding is released which have not yet been met, provide an explanation of what needs to be done, the dates by which it needs to be carried out, and any steps the applicant needs to take to ensure the funding is confirmed and/or released.

N/A – All funding has been confirmed.

Relevant expertise and experience

3.21 Please provide details of who will be responsible for the day-to-day general management of the multiplex service (for example, dealing with programme service providers and contractual matters). Please also briefly state their previous relevant experience. (Note that any individuals or contractors who cannot be identified at this stage can instead be included in the confidential section (Part B) of the application form.)

Tony Dibbin and Chris Gregg will be responsible for the day to day (non-technical) management of the service, contractual matters and liaison with service providers.

Tony Dibbin

Tony is a very experienced radio professional with management experience at Global Radio and GCap Media who will be working in Bedford as the Managing Director of Bedford Broadcasting Ltd which proposes to operate a C-DSP service on the multiplex and will provide premises for the operating body.

Tony Dibbin was Programme Controller for Chiltern Radio 96.9 and Breakfast show host between 2007 and 2010. From hosting the town's Christmas light switch ons, hosting the main stage at both the Bedford River Festival and The Bedford Proms in the Park events to starring in two sell-out pantomimes at the Bedford Corn Exchange Tony is a well known character in and around Bedford.

In a career spanning 28 years in commercial radio Tony has written successful license applications for broadcast licenses, such as Fusion 107.9 in Oxford and the West Midlands regional license.

Today Tony works with Bauer Media fronting shows on Greatest Hits Radio and the digital Absolute Radio 70s.

Tony has the connections, the commitment and the experience to deliver on this exciting endeavour of bringing digital radio to Bedford.

Chris Gregg

Chris is a very experienced radio programmer with over 30 years' experience having worked for GCap Media, Global Radio, UKRD and Chrysalis Radio and managed successful radio stations in Leeds, Manchester and Milton Keynes as well as broadcasting on some of the largest regional and local stations.

He was Programme Controller of Horizon Radio in Milton Keynes from 2006 and oversaw the rebrand of the radio station to Heart 103.3, after which he took the station to its highest RAJAR reach and hours for 10 years. He then went on to found MKFM as a community radio station for Milton Keynes in 2011 which included 6 RSL licences, broadcasting on regional DAB from 2013 and a successful Community Radio licence application in 2015.

Before moving to the local area, Chris was Programme Manager at 96.2 The Revolution in Oldham between 1999 and 2006, achieving the radio station's highest ever audience figures.

Since leaving MKFM in 2016, he has worked as a marketing consultant, provided event management services in the local area and since 2018 been employed by the charity Wil-len Hospice as a Senior Corporate Fundraiser with responsibility for arranging partnerships with key local businesses.

Alongside these roles, he has continued to be involved with community radio and founded Revolution Radio in Northampton in 2020 which successfully applied for an FM licence and has been on air since Summer 2021.

Chris has a strong network of connections in the Bedford business community and third sector and regularly hosts events in the Bedford area.

Chris holds a Bachelor of Broadcasting degree from Leeds University, taught in conjunction with BBC Training and has completed several management training courses with GCap Media and Global Radio.

- 3.22 Please provide details of who will be carrying out the installation and on-going maintenance of your multiplexing / transmitter equipment (or the name of your proposed transmission and multiplex provider if you intend to use a third-party organisation for these services). Please also briefly state their previous relevant experience. (Note that any individuals or contractors who cannot be identified at this stage can instead be included in the confidential section [Part B] of the application form.)

Function	Responsible party	Previous experience
Installation of transmission equipment	Ian Hickling (transplan UK) and Nik Fox (Cotswold Venture Group) with support from Viamux UK	Ian Hickling is one half of the transplan UK partnership and has provided technical support for over 140 community radio stations across the UK from an unrivalled knowledge of transmission systems and equipment with 60+ years in RF propagation and 20+ years in all aspects of Community Radio. www.transplanuk.com Nik Fox operates Cotswold Venture Group which provides a range of services from IT Consultancy and Cyber Security, to Broadcast and RF, including LoRaWAN, IoT, FM & DAB transmission. cotswoldgrp.com
Ongoing maintenance of the transmission equipment	Ian Hickling (transplan UK) and Nik Fox (Cotswold Venture Group) with support from Viamux UK	
Installation of the Multiplexing equipment	Ian Hickling (transplan UK) and Nik Fox (Cotswold Venture Group) with support from Viamux UK	
Day-to-day technical management and maintenance of the multiplexing equipment (if different from response to question 3.28 above)	Ian Hickling (transplan UK) and Nik Fox (Cotswold Venture Group) with support from Viamux UK	

		<p>Viamux is a leading supplier of small-scale DAB solutions. It was established in 2017 by the Nicast Digital team - who have been operating the successful Trial Manchester small-scale multiplex for the past six years. Viamux have installed systems in the UK & Republic of Ireland.</p> <p>www.viamux.com</p>
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Timetable for coverage roll-out

- 3.23 Please tell us how soon after licence award you expect your multiplex service to become operational and achieve the coverage you are proposing:

We would aim to launch within 6 months of award of licence with both proposed transmitters operational and providing our proposed level of coverage as shown in the attached project plan.

- 3.24 In addition, please provide, as an annex to be submitted with this application, an outline project plan with timeline (e.g. a Gantt chart or similar) showing the high level activities and tasks leading up to the launch of your multiplex service.

4. Involvement of C-DSP providers; demand or support from programme providers

About this section

Section 51(2)(ca) of the 1996 Act requires Ofcom to take into account the desirability of awarding a small-scale radio multiplex licence to a body corporate that is providing – or proposing to provide – a C-DSP service in the locality being advertised (or involving such a person as a participant in the licence-holding company).

Section 51(2)(f) of the 1996 Act requires Ofcom to take into account evidence that the applicant has support from providers interested in having their existing or planned programme services carried on the proposed multiplex.

Note that we do not require applicants to provide us with a full-line up of services they intend to provide, or details about the content of those services.

Involvement of C-DSP providers

4.1 Is the applicant body proposing to provide its own C-DSP service on the multiplex?

No (please delete accordingly)

4.2 If the answer to the above question is ‘yes’, please provide a name and brief details of this proposed service. If the service is already licensed by Ofcom, the licence number should be provided:

N/A

4.3 If the answer to the above question is ‘no’, please provide details of any participant in the applicant body that is proposing to provide a C-DSP service on the multiplex. In this context, a “participant” refers to a person who holds or is beneficially entitled to shares in the applicant or possesses voting power in the applicant. If the service is already licensed by Ofcom, the licence number should be provided. Please refer to the nature of the participation (e.g. shareholding or agreement in relation to voting power):

Bedford Broadcasting Ltd which is a 33% shareholder in the applicant proposes to operate a C-DSP service on the multiplex.

Demand or support from programme providers

4.4 Please provide in the table below (expanding the table if necessary) the names of providers (or prospective providers) of community or local digital sound programme services who have expressed their demand or support for the provision of the proposed multiplex ser-

vice in the area to be served by the multiplex service. For reasons of transparency, the response to this question *must be answered below and should not be provided as a separate annex*. The evidence of the demand or support, such as signed heads of terms or emails, should be provided as a confidential annex, and relate only to the specific multiplex being applied for.

Name of service provider and station name (if known)	Proposed C-DSP or DSP	Nature of evidence of support provided
Diverse FM	C-DSP	Signed Heads of Terms
Hospital Radio Bedford	C-DSP	Signed Heads of Terms
I Told You So Radio	C-DSP	Signed Heads of Terms
Radio MK	C-DSP	Signed Heads of Terms
The River Radio	C-DSP	Signed Heads of Terms
<i>Please note, we will reserve C-DSP capacity for In2Beats and Bedford Radio who are also applying for the SSDAB multiplex and therefore are not supporting our application at this stage, and Biggles FM.</i>		
Arena Radio	DSP	Signed Heads of Terms
DRN	DSP	Signed Heads of Terms
Gaydio	DSP	Expressed Interest
Horizon Radio	DSP	Signed Heads of Terms
Life Radio	DSP	Expressed Interest
Panjab Radio	DSP	Signed Heads of Terms
Pop-up Radio	DSP	Operated by applicant
Ramadan FM	DSP	Expressed Interest
RBA Radio	DSP	Signed Heads of Terms
Revolution Radio	DSP	Signed Heads of Terms
Sunrise Radio	DSP	Signed Heads of Terms
UltraVegas Radio	DSP	Signed Heads of Terms

5. Fair and effective competition

About this section

Section 51(2)(g) of the 1996 Act requires Ofcom to assess whether, in contracting or offering to contract with programme service providers, the applicant has acted in a manner calculated to ensure fair and effective competition in the provision of community and local digital sound programme services.

In assessing applications, we need to have confidence that the prospective small-scale radio multiplex licensee has approached a wide range of potential service providers. Negotiations that have taken place between the applicant and potential service providers need to have been demonstrably fair, and the terms of any contract for service provision must be fair and non-discriminatory.

Applicants should note there is one further question relating to fair and effective competition in Part B of the application form.

- 5.1 Please detail the measures that have already been taken, and will be taken before and during the licence period, to demonstrate that, in contracting or offering to contract with programme services providers, the applicant has acted in a manner calculated to ensure fair and effective competition in the provision of such services:

We have conducted exhaustive research with the aim of making contact with every potential service provider in the local area and will continue to proactively encourage prospective participants to get involved. This has involved contacting:

- All licensed community radio stations in the polygon area
- All online stations based in the area
- Student radio stations
- Hospital radio stations
- RSL broadcasters
- Community radio stations in neighbouring areas

We have listed our application on the Radio Today website and they have also publicised our application in a news article on 19 April 2022 with a link to our website which contains contact details and a simple form to radio stations to contact us and submit an Expression of Interest. We will, of course, continue to accept requests for carriage from radio stations after the application deadline however any station which contacted us up to an hour before the deadline was able to be included in our application.

We are conscious that the technology and terminology involved in DAB broadcasting can be a barrier to participation for some service providers, for example operators of online stations or RSLs. We set up a dedicated website at bedforddab.com to provide advice for prospective applicants including an introduction to DAB and small scale DAB in plain English.

The website invites radio stations to contact us for advice and support with their decision with no obligation. In our conversations with prospective stations we have taken the time to clearly explain the opportunity and provided advice on best practice, for example possible sources of funding and sponsorship, technical solutions and organisational structures.

We will continue to offer all radio stations carried on the multiplex ongoing technical assistance and operational advice if required.

6. Declaration

About this section

This form must be submitted by the body corporate which will hold the licence. The declaration must be certified by a company director or the company secretary, and covers all information provided by in the applicant in both Part A and Part B of the application form. The declaration must also be dated.

- a) I hereby apply to Ofcom for the grant of a licence for the small-scale radio multiplex licence described above and declare that the information given in this application form is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, correct.
- b) I further declare and warrant:
 - i) that the applicant is not a disqualified person within the meaning of that expression as defined in Part 2 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;
 - ii) that having made all reasonable enquiries neither the applicant nor any person controlling the applicant, as 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;
 - iii) 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
 - iv) that no director or person concerned directly or indirectly in the management of the Licensee is the subject to a disqualification order as defined by section 145 (1) of the Broadcasting Act 1996.
- c) 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 substantial shareholders involved in this application are fit and proper persons to participate in a radio licence, have been made known to Ofcom.

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

CHRISTOPHER GREGG

Date of application:

24/4/2022

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

Company secretary and director

You now need to complete the **[confidential section \(Part B\)](#)** of the application form.