
Small-scale radio multiplex licence

Application form – Part A (public)

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

West Sussex Digital Ltd

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

South West Sussex

APPLICATION FORM:

Publication date: 30 March 2023

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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 to leave a message for the Broadcast Licensing team, who will respond to your message as soon as possible.
- 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 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

Supporting documentation

- 1.22 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.
- 1.23 Ofcom reserves the right to reject applications with which the necessary documents are not supplied in legible form.
- 1.24 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

- 1.25 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.

- 1.26 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

- 1.27 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. Part B of the application form will remain confidential.
- 1.28 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.
- 1.29 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.
- 1.30 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 team by email (smallscaledab@ofcom.org.uk).
- 1.31 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

- 1.32 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

- 1.33 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/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):

The polygon has challenging terrain with a flat coastal strip contrasting with a Southdowns Nation Park through the core of the polygon. The terrain coupled with the proximity to the English Channel mean that to cover the polygon fully would require a significant number of transmitters.

Our plan is based on a main transmitter at Burton Down supplemented by a transmitter at Findon.

We have tried hard to limit coverage outside of the polygon and to prevent the risk of ACI to other multiplexes.

Our two transmitter proposal strikes a balance between good coverage of the polygon and ensuring the financial viability of the DAB multiplex in the long term. Burton Down provides coverage to the key towns of Bognor Regis, Littlehampton and Angmering with much of Chichester served. Our Findon transmitter provides coverage in Worthing.

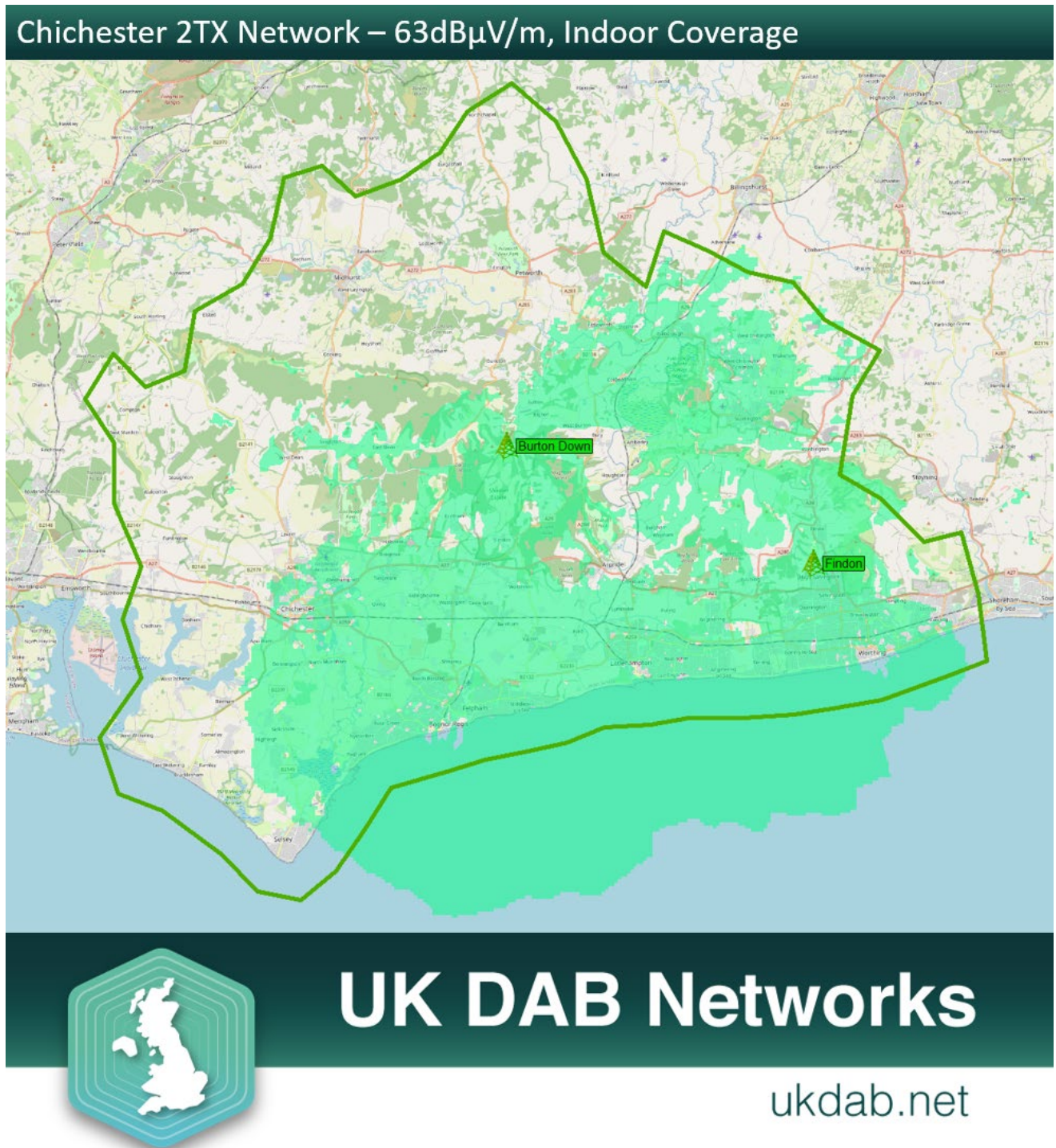
Feedback from service providers was that with established small scale DAB multiplexes in Portsmouth and Brighton, coverage along the A27 is key, and we have submitted a plan that provides this.

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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)
Burton Down	SU96571314	46m	Directional, 180deg ETN	Existing	100w
Findon	TQ12000725	35m	Directional, 300deg ETN	Existing	100w

- 2.3 Please provide below 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 dB μ V/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. In the interests of transparency, you **must** embed an inline map image within this form (even if you also submit a map as a separate supporting file).



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.	ATDI HTZ Communications x64
Detail the terrain model used by the software and its resolution.	DTM: DEFRA 1m and 2m resolution (DSM+DTM)
Detail the ground cover (clutter) data used by the software and its resolution.	Buildings: DEFRA (automatic extraction – slope algorithm - performed at 2 m resolution then resampled) Vegetation (park, wood, forest) and Hydro from Corine Land Cover 2018 and Urban Atlas 2018 (European Environment Agency) Roads and railways from Open Street Map (2019)
What propagation algorithm has been used?	Model pre-set: Fresnel Diffraction geometry: Deygout 94 Subpath attenuation: Coarse Integration FZ fraction: 0.8 Earth radius (sea and land): 28,500km
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 data used
Have your predictions been generated by a commercial organisation? If so, by whom?	UK DAB Networks (Operations) Ltd

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):

West Sussex Digital Ltd

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

14728178

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:

86-90 Paul Street, London, EC2A 4NE

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

Yes (delete as appropriate)

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
Robert Duncan Eric Barkes	86-90 Paul Street, London, EC2A 4NE	England	None	Transport for South East
Ashley John Elford	86-90 Paul Street, London, EC2A 4NE	England	UK DAB Networks (Operations) Ltd – multiplex operator South Thames DAB Ltd, Muxcast 5 DAB Ltd, Provincial DAB Ltd, Middlesex DAB Ltd – multiplex applicants	First MTR South West Trains Ltd Nation Resources Ltd
Steven Michael Freegard	86-90 Paul Street, London, EC2A 4NE	England	None	None
Simon John Hardwick	86-90 Paul Street, London, EC2A 4NE	England	Southdown Media Ltd - broadcaster	BBC Studioworks Ltd

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

Chichester Hospital Radio	86-90 Paul Street, London, EC2A 4NE	England	None	None
Radio Worthing CIC	86-90 Paul Street, London, EC2A 4NE	England	None	None

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
Robert Duncan Eric Barks	18	£18	18%	18%
UK DAB Networks (Operations) Ltd	18	£18	18%	18%
Steven Michael Freegard	18	£18	18%	18%
Southdown Media Ltd	18	£18	18%	18%
Chichester Hospital Radio	10	£10	10%	10%
Radio Worthing CIC	18	£18	18%	18%
Comments				
Chichester Hospital Radio shares are held in trust by Peter Crew				

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 (or 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)
No one entity or person has control of the applicant company. The applicant company does not control any other body corporate.		

- 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
N/A	

- 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				
Full name of participant	Number of shares	Total investment (£s)	Total investment (%)	% of voting rights
N/A				
Comments				

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
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 (delete as appropriate).
- b) Has the applicant ever held an Ofcom broadcasting licence before?
No (delete as appropriate).
- c) Has anyone involved in the proposed service held an Ofcom broadcasting licence or been involved in an Ofcom-licensed broadcast service before?
Yes (delete as appropriate).
- d) Does the applicant control an existing Ofcom licensee?
No (delete as appropriate).
- 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 (delete as appropriate).

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.

- 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 (delete as appropriate).

- g) 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 (delete as appropriate).

- h) 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 (delete as appropriate).

- i) 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 (delete as appropriate).

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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)	DS103872 DS103951 CR101255BA/3 DP000155BA/7 SSDABWT004 CR000002 SSDABWT008 DP102813BA/2 RSL315/11 RSL425/11 DP101522BA/1	Basingstoke DAB multiplex - Ash Elford Winchester DAB multiplex - Ash Elford Angel Radio – Ash Elford Angel Radio – Ash Elford Portsmouth small scale DAB trial – Ash Elford Angel Radio – Ash Elford Glasgow small scale DAB trial – Ash Elford Southdown Media – Simon Hardwick Worthing FM – Simon Hardwick Jubilee FM -Simon Hardwick Unforgettable Radio – Duncan Barkes
(d)		
(e)	DS103872 DS103951 DP102813BA/2	Basingstoke DAB multiplex - Ash Elford Winchester DAB multiplex - Ash Elford Southdown Media – Simon Hardwick
(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".

N/A

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

No (delete as appropriate).

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.

Our shareholders are experienced broadcasters and have been involved in various DAB projects from running multiplexes to operating stations.

In particular, shareholder UK DAB Networks has been involved in the establishment and operation of a number of small scale DAB multiplexes.

We have budgeted £25,000 for the establishment of our multiplex from its two launch transmitter sites.

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

a) Share capital

N/A

b) Loan stock

Yes, see table 3.19

c) Leasing/HP facilities (capital value)

N/A

d) Bank overdraft

N/A

e) Grants and donations

N/A

f) Other (please specify)

N/A

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 (£)
Robert Duncan Eric Barks	18%	£5000
UK DAB Networks (Operations) Ltd	18%	£5000
Steven Michael Freegard	18%	£5000
Southdown Media Ltd	18%	£5000
Radio Worthing CIC	18%	£5000
N/A		

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.

See confidential Part B

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.)

We have access to a number of individuals with significant broadcasting experience. This expertise will ensure a smooth, professional launch and successful ongoing operation of the multiplex.

Day-to-day management of the multiplex will be by Ash Elford through UK DAB Networks, a DAB multiplex consultancy, ownership and operating company. Ash is one of the UK's pioneers in SSDAB and has overseen the establishment and successful operation of a number of small scale DAB multiplexes. Ash lives in Chichester and will be actively involved on the ground with the operation of the service. In addition to this, in his former employment, Ash managed the Sussex local DAB multiplex on behalf of Now Digital and is aware of the challenges faced with DAB operation in the local area.

Our multiplexing and encoding will be managed in-house by Simon Hardwick and Steve Freegard. Simon and Steve both have an engineering background and have built a number of multiplexers and encoders. Of note, Simon has experience of building encoders which have been used in the Ofcom small scale DAB trial.

Simon Hardwick runs long-established local DAB Services 80s Rhythm and Passion Radio on the neighbouring Brighton & Hove and Portsmouth SSDAB muxes, with Passion Radio having previously appeared in 2006 on Now Sussex mux. Simon also has a firm focus on support and funding for community initiatives - having operated pop-up stations "Health Information Radio" during the Pandemic, and Christmas Music Radio supporting local charities in Sussex and Hampshire. With Simon's previous experience at Mercury FM, Juice Brighton, and Splash FM in various roles he has a strong understanding of the West Sussex marketplace.

Transmission will be contracted to Commtronix who established themselves as a leading provider of engineering services to the radio industry. Of note, Commtronix has been responsible for the engineering of the Portsmouth trial small scale DAB multiplex since launch in 2015, along with the Basingstoke, Glasgow, Salisbury and Winchester small scale DAB multiplexes.

Duncan Barks lives in Chichester and worked as Regional Managing Director and Regional Programme Controller at The Local Radio Company where he had management and programming responsibility for seven radio stations across the South East of England, including Chichester-based Spirit FM. Having lived in Chichester and Worthing for much of his life, he is well connected with local arts groups, charities, businesses and politicians. He spent 5 years writing a weekly newspaper column that appeared in the Chichester Observer, Worthing Herald, Midhurst and Petworth Observer and the Bognor Regis Observer. After a stint working in Westminster as a Senior Parliamentary Assistant to an MP, he now works in Sussex in public affairs and public relations.

Steve Freegard is an IT Professional and has been a volunteer at Chichester Hospital Radio for over 20 years. He made the switch to commercial radio around 5 years ago as a freelance presenter with Spirit FM and after its closure was instrumental in setting up V2 Radio as its replacement and works there as a Presenter and Chief Engineer.

Chichester Hospital Radio has served the patients and staff of St. Richards for over 50 years and recently won a Queen's Award for voluntary service. They have broadcast on 1431AM since May 2000 and want to move to SSDAB to improve the quality of their service and allow it to expand and to ensure its longevity.

Radio Worthing was established in 2011, with the purpose of restoring the town's unique voice to the airwaves and focusing on local journalism. This Community Interest Company is led by local broadcasters and other Worthing visionaries and is based in Chatsworth Road in the heart of Worthing town centre. With a history of radio experience, local trial broadcasts as Worthing FM and Jubilee FM and strong connections within the town, Radio Worthing is already updating local content on its website ahead of an online pre-launch in Summer 2023.

We have significant expertise amongst our shareholders too.

In summary, we are West Sussex through and through with a great background in providing affordable DAB digital radio solutions!

- 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	Commtronix Ltd	Significant experience of installation of DAB transmission systems

		for small and large broadcasters
Ongoing maintenance of the transmission equipment	Commtronix Ltd	Significant experience of installation of DAB transmission systems for small and large broadcasters
Installation of the Multiplexing equipment	Simon Hardwick and Steve Freegard	Experience of installation of DAB transmission systems for during small scale DAB trial
Day-to-day technical management and maintenance of the multiplexing equipment (if different from response to question 3.28 above)	UK DAB Networks (Operations) Ltd	Significant experience of managing DAB multiplexes.

Timetable for coverage roll-out

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

We expect to launch within 12 months of Ofcom awarding the licence from all transmission sites.

- 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.

See attached file.

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):

Chichester Hospital Radio – Chichester Hospital Radio

The service is holds a Ofcom L-RSL AM licence.

Chichester Hospital Radio is a Director of West Sussex Digital Ltd

Radio Worthing CIC – Radio Worthing

The service is not currently licenced by Ofcom, although the group has previously operated successful RSLs in collaboration with local Worthing groups.

Radio Worthing CIC is a Director of West Sussex Digital Ltd

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 service 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
Chichester Hospital Radio Chichester Hospital Radio	C-DSP	Shareholder service
Radio Worthing Radio Worthing CIC	C-DSP	Shareholder service
Seaside Hospital Radio Seaside Hospital Radio	C-DSP	Heads of terms
CATN Chichester Area Talking News	C-DSP	Letter of support
80s Rhythm Southdown Media Ltd	DSP	Shareholder service
Passion Radio Southdown Media Ltd	DSP	Shareholder service
Angel Radio Angel Radio Ltd	DSP	Heads of terms
Swinging Radio 60s Angel Radio Ltd	DSP	Heads of terms

Small-scale radio multiplex licence: Application form (Part A)

News Radio UK News Radio UK Ltd	DSP	Heads of terms
Colourful Vive Radio Ltd	DSP	Heads of terms
Gaydio Gaydio CIC	DSP	Heads of terms
XTRA HOT Dorset Community Radio Ltd	DSP	Heads of terms
Nation Radio Nation Broadcasting Ltd	DSP	Heads of terms
Nation 80s Thames Radio Ltd	DSP	Heads of terms
Confidential – Dance music Identity disclosed to Ofcom	DSP	Heads of terms
Victory Nostalgic Local Radio Ltd	DSP	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.

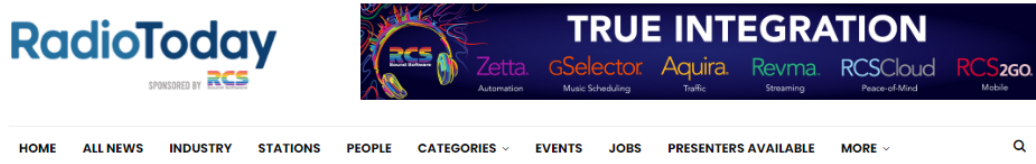
In assessing applications, we need to have confidence that the prospective small-scale radio multiplex licensee has approached a wide range of potential service providers. Negotiations that have taken place between the applicant and potential service providers need to have been demonstrably fair, and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

For example, how have you sought to engage a broad range of prospective service providers including those not directly involved as participants in the application and those who have decided not to proceed to express an interest or agree heads of terms at this stage, and how have you sought to make prospective service providers aware of your proposals and potential terms for carriage?

In preparation for our licence application, we publicized our plans through the trade press, Radio Today in early April 2023, inviting interested broadcasters to contact us.



West Sussex Digital keeps it local with DAB application plans

Written By Roy Martin — April 5, 2023 - 9:10 am



A new local radio group has been created in West Sussex to apply for the small-scale DAB digital radio multiplex in the area.

West Sussex Digital is a group of individuals, businesses and charities from the area that have come together to apply for the upcoming licence.





The application consists of:

Chichester Hospital Radio – Chichester Hospital Radio has provided bedside entertainment to St. Richards for over 50 years and was recently recognised with a Queen's Award for voluntary service.

Radio Worthing – Radio Worthing was established in 2011, with the purpose of restoring the town's unique voice to the airwaves. This Community Interest Company is led by local broadcasters and other Worthing visionaries.

Ash Elford – Ash lives in Chichester and runs DAB multiplex operator UK DAB Networks. Ash already runs DAB digital radio multiplexes in nearby Portsmouth, Winchester and Basingstoke.

Today's radio news

-  Another win for Roman Kemp at the annual TRIC Awards
52 mins ago
 -  University Radio York turns off AM service after 55 years
6 hours ago
 -  Latest ReelWorld Radio Academy 30 Under 30 initiative launched
8 hours ago
 -  The News Agents secures HSBC UK as headline podcast sponsor
10 hours ago
- < PREV | NEXT > 1 of 25

We have also invited broadcasters that we have relationships elsewhere with to join our application, as well as other broadcasters that we are aware of by email. We have placed a notice on our westsussex.digital website asking interested services to contact us.

We also made use of local press contacts to promote our application. Articles featured in the Chichester Observer, Worthing Herald and Sussex Express. An example from the Chichester Observer is featured below.

Our consultant UK DAB Networks also contacted a significant number of service providers directly, as well as placing notices on its website, LinkedIn, social media and Wohnort.org.

wohnort

DAB Ensembles Worldwide

ADVERTISEMENT

23 YEARS WOHNORT

Eld	Stereo	Stereo	Joint Stereo	Joint St. LSF	Mono	Mono LSF	Dual Channel	Packet Data	Stream Data	DAB+ (Mode?)	DAB+ Stereo	DAB+ Mono	DAB+ 5.1
IV													

UK DAB Networks are involved with new small scale DAB applications either as shareholder or consultant as part of Round 5 of Ofcom's licensing programme.

- Aldershot Guildford/Woking
- Alton Haslemere/Petersfield
- London - North
- London - South
- London - West
- Portsmouth
- Reading
- South West Sussex

If you are interested in broadcasting your radio station on DAB to any of the above locations, please contact ash@ukdab.net by 17:00 on Wednesday 28th June 2023.

Algeria

Andorra

Australia

Austria

Azerbaijan

Bahrain

Belarus

Belgium

Bosnia

Brunei

Bulgaria

Cambodia

Canada

China

Croatia

Cyprus

Czech Republic

Denmark

Egypt

Estonia

Finland

France

Germany

Malaysia

Malta

Martinique

Mexico

Moldova

Monaco

Mongolia

Montenegro

Netherlands

New Zealand

N. Macedonia

Norway

Oman

Poland

Portugal

Qatar

Romania

Saudi Arabia

Serbia

Singapore

Slovakia

Slovenia

South Africa

Latest Updates and News

June 26th
Snapshot of the Netherlands local ensemble **DAB Lokaal 50** updated. Additional services **FeelGood 60s&70s** and **Sunrise FM** have popped up since the previous observation. **Erasmus Radio** has ceased. The service **NRG** has been relabelled **972**.

June 26th
Snapshot of the Netherlands local ensemble **RANDSTAD-ZW** updated. The service **NRG** has been relabelled **972** since the previous observation. This Ensemble's EId appears to be TS 101 756 non-compliant for a Netherlands ensemble.

June 26th
Snapshot of the Netherlands local ensemble **DAB Lokaal 5C** updated. **FeelGood 60s&70s** has replaced **SUNFM BEACHRADIO** since the previous observation. The service **NRG** has been relabelled **972**.

June 26th
North Cumbria snapshots corrected.

Post licence award, we will maintain a website and social media presence and invite broadcasters to contact us. If we are oversubscribed with interest from broadcasters, we will keep interest on file and contact them when capacity becomes available. We will allocate the capacity in a way that ensures the greatest diversity of formats and service providers. **We will treat C-DSP and DSPS providers fairly.**

We draw Ofcom's attention to the significant number of service providers from non-profit outfits to large commercial groups that Ash Elford from UK DAB Networks has put on DAB over the years as evidence that we are capable of fair and effective competition and also ensuring multiplexes have high levels of occupancy.

Finally, we note that a group called Digital Radio West Sussex Ltd have announced their intention to apply for this licence as well. We note that we invited Total Sense Media Ltd to be a founding shareholder of our application on equal terms as our other shareholders, but they declined to be a part of our application, instead forming a rival applicant group of their own.

Should Ofcom award the South West Sussex small scale DAB multiplex to West Sussex Digital Ltd we undertake to fairly contract with any service provider that was part of any other application.

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:

ASHLEY JOHN ELFORD

Date of application:

FRIDAY 30th JUNE 2023

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

Company director.

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