



NASB NEWSLETTER

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DRM UPDATES

Jeff White's Opening Remarks at USA DRM Group Meeting May 6, 2004

Good morning. For those who don't know me, I'm Jeff White, and it's my pleasure as president of the National Association of Shortwave Broadcasters -- NASB -- for the next 24 hours, anyway -- to welcome you to the first-ever meeting of the USA DRM Group. And we want to thank very much Hal Creech and Radio Free Asia for hosting this meeting. They came to our rescue because the hotel where we will have our annual meeting tomorrow did not have any meeting rooms available today for this DRM meeting. And TCI has come to our rescue by providing us with a bit of lunch; many thanks to them.

NASB has followed the development of the DRM consortium ever since its foundation. In fact, we were one of the first associate members of DRM, since our meager non-government-subsidized budget doesn't permit us to be a full member. But we were, like most shortwave broadcasters, very curious about this new digital shortwave technology, and if it had any chance at all of succeeding, we wanted to be a part of it. Especially since DRM seemed to have the potential of breathing new life into a medium which so many people continue to predict is dying out slowly.

But we also wanted to be a member of DRM because we represent a fairly large group of privately-owned shortwave broadcasters, and we thought we could perhaps contribute something to the DRM consortium. So far, I think we have done so. Mike Adams of Far East Broadcasting Company is our official NASB liaison to DRM, and he has been very involved in DRM activities in various parts of the world. In fact, he has just returned from the DRM annual meeting in China a few weeks ago, and I'm sure he'll be reporting on that during today's session. DRM, along with the Ten Tec company, helped us carry out a demonstration of DRM at the National Meeting of Mexican Shortwave Listeners near Mexico City last July. And in an effort to support DRM and encourage receiver manufacturers to make DRM-capable radios, we began last October a series

of weekly half-hour broadcasts in DRM called "The Voice of the NASB." This program is novel because it's the first time NASB has ever produced a joint program -- a different station produces the program each week -- and of course it's the first time we've ever done a broadcast in DRM. The program is broadcast each week in analog form to North America from my station -- WRMI in Miami, and in DRM from Merlin in Rampisham, UK beamed to Europe, where most of the DRM receivers are located at this stage.

I was encouraged at the High Frequency Coordinating Conference in Dubai in February to hear Michel Penneroux, chairman of the DRM Technical Committee, say that stand-alone DRM receivers should be available in the marketplace for less than 200 euros by the end of this year or the beginning of next year. If this type of progress is achieved -- if radios are available for accessible prices like this, DRM will certainly catch on quickly among a great many shortwave listeners.

Well, we have a lot of work to do here today, so let me just thank Radio Free Asia again for its facilities (and the nice tour we just received), and TCI for sponsoring our lunch. And let me give the floor now to our meeting chairman, Mike Adams.

NASB to Extend DRM Transmissions

The National Association of Shortwave Broadcasters (NASB), representing 19 privately-owned shortwave stations in the United States, has decided to extend its DRM transmissions after the organization's current contract with VT Merlin expires on July 18th.

Since October of last year, the Voice of the NASB has broadcast a weekly half-hour program in DRM to Europe from Merlin's Rampisham transmitter site. A different NASB member or associate member station produces the program each week.

At the NASB annual meeting on May 7, the general membership voted to re-broadcast the current series of DRM programs to North America after the European transmissions via Merlin end in July. At the moment, NASB is considering offers from DRM transmission providers RCI-Sackville, Radio Netherlands-Bonaire and VT Merlin-Rampisham itself for the new series of broadcasts. Final details of day, time and frequency will be announced in the coming weeks. See NASB's website, www.shortwave.org, for the latest information.

DRM Broadcasters Users Manual

The new DRM Broadcasters' User Manual has been published. We have e-mailed electronic copies to some NASB members and associate members who have requested them. Now, we are pleased to note that the Manual is available on the DRM website, www.drm.org.

The following editorial appeared in the Spring 2004 issue of Thales Radio News:

The interest in DRM (Digital Radio Mondiale) is spreading around the globe like wildfire. At the recent NASB Exhibition in Las Vegas USA one of the most renowned and popular annual electronics events, no less than 8 major exhibitors displayed DRM equipment.

DRM consumer receiver development is presenting the 2nd generation equipment and nearly 60 broadcasters worldwide have begun DRM transmissions.

DRM Consortium held its annual General Assembly in Hangzhou China end of April, where the Chinese Vice Minister Zhang Haitao informed the delegates that China is committed to the introduction of digital radio. Several receiver manufacturers showed great interest in this new technology, which opens for them an interesting new market opportunity.

Thales had the honor to participate with lectures and live demonstrations at the DRM Symposium taking place at Hangzhou.

For medium wave, we plugged in our digital medium wave starter kit and tuned it to 1008 kHz to assist the Chinese manufacturer Zhongli in demonstrating a new type of medium wave antenna for flat radiation patterns. We fed the new crossfield antenna with 6 kW DRM power.

Our partner ABRS did live short wave transmissions to Hangzhou, using their new digital 500 kW DRM transmitter, delivered and taken into operation end of 2003. The reception and signal quality were excellent.

The DRM sound could convince attendees of the bright new future of AM technology.

More info at www.thales-bm.com

Report on USA DRM Meeting of May 6, 2004

Summary of Organizational Meeting

Thursday, May 6th was a beautiful sunny day in Washington. Some 25 persons from throughout North America and Europe gathered at the headquarters of Radio Free Asia for the first-ever meeting of the USA DRM Group.

The meeting was the brainchild of NASB DRM liaison Mike Adams of Far East Broadcasting Co., himself based in London. It was organized by Jeff White of the NASB and hosted by Hal Creech of Radio Free Asia.

The first item on the agenda was a quick tour of Radio Free Asia's very nice facilities -- master control, studios, mini production studios, research facilities and a brief welcome from the amiable President of RFA, Richard Richter. Then it was down to the first floor conference room, which was nicely arranged with a large table in the middle of the room, microphones, computer projector, screen, podium, separate kitchen area with microwave and refrigerator, and restrooms. Before getting down to business, everyone was invited to enjoy six different types of pizza for lunch from a famous restaurant in the area called Luigi's which was highly recommended by Hal

Creech, and for good reason as it turned out. Thanks to TCI Dielectric and Radio Miami International for sponsoring the lunch.

After opening remarks by Hal Creech and Jeff White, Mike Adams noted that most of the participants were from international broadcasters, transmission providers and transmitter manufacturers. There was no one from the receiver industry or IC chip manufacturers, but they might be able to attend the next meeting in Dallas in November. The regulatory representative from the FCC was unfortunately in Geneva and unable to attend.

DRM Worldwide Development Policy

The highlight of the meeting was a PowerPoint presentation by Michel Penneroux, Chairman of the DRM Commercial Committee, who flew in from Paris to help organize the U.S. group. Michel said he thought it was important that the USA DRM Group was being launched in Washington at a major broadcaster like RFA and in conjunction with the NASB annual meeting. "You are people who know the business," he remarked.

DRM will mean new broadcasters and new business, said Michel. He mentioned that there are already DRM Platforms (i.e. country or regional groups) in France, Russia, Japan, Canada, Finland, Spain, Portugal and now China. Some are more active than others. The Finnish group also involves Scandinavia and northern Europe. The Spanish and Portuguese groups have strong ties to Latin America. The French platform has a major focus on Africa and the Mediterranean, including Morocco, Algeria, Libya and Egypt. He said that China is now testing DRM transmissions to Europe from western China, and they want to set up a worldwide relay network of DRM transmissions.

In Europe, Michel explained that Sony will be producing receivers with both DAB and DRM capability. There are 2.5 billion radio receivers in the world, and DRM is the only digital standard for shortwave.

Michel said that the USA is active in DRM and the U.S. is a de facto leader in DRM. DRM is well-adapted for wide coverage of this country. "All of the conditions are there," he said, "for the success of DRM in the U.S." The rollout is ahead of schedule. It is good that a USA DRM Group is being established, and we need to choose a chairman and various stream leaders.

It is important that some big commercial broadcasters in Europe -- notably RTL in Luxembourg -- have made commitments to DRM. The RTL Group is the number one media group in Europe, with TV, FM, mediumwave and longwave. It is the number four media group worldwide. And RTL has decided to broadcast on shortwave to Germany, France and the U.K. in DRM. "DRM is a big commercial thing for them."

Stand-alone DRM receivers will eventually cost as low as \$50 in China. Digital radios will eventually be "radios without frequencies. You just punch in the station that you want, and the radio will find it." This concept can potentially bring advertising dollars to international shortwave broadcasting. Someone remarked that Sony was putting shortwave frequency guides in with all of the radios it sells, but their marketing people didn't realize that these frequencies change every six months. "Smart" DRM radios will eliminate this problem. Of course audience surveys for shortwave will have to be organized.

Ed Evans, former station manager for WSHB of the Christian Science Monitor, said that his station had contacted Coca Cola and told them it could broadcast their ads into all of South

America, for example. But Coke responded that they wanted to do different ads to different countries. Michel said that RTL is doing a country-by-country strategy, using one frequency for Germany, another frequency for the U.K., etc.

Adrian Peterson of Adventist World Radio asked about the reports of DRM signals taking up very wide bandwidths and thus interfering with adjacent-channel analog stations, and vice-versa. He asked if there is any consideration being given to separate bands or portions of bands for DRM broadcasting on HF. It was explained that some of the original tests did use a very wide bandwidth, but that the new standards are quite strict and have eliminated most of the adjacent-channel interference problems.

Jeff White pointed out that many DXers are still complaining about DRM interference to analog stations, and the need to correct these problems in order to get the DXers behind us on DRM, rather than opposed to us. He explained that in the seven months that the Voice of the NASB has been transmitting from VT Merlin DRM shortwave facilities in Rampisham, there has not yet been one report of the NASB broadcast interfering with any adjacent-channel analog signals or vice-versa, which may be a credit to Merlin's DRM masking standards and/or frequency planning expertise. Jeff mentioned that the NASB is proposing to the FCC that the minimum power for DRM transmissions on HF in the United States should be 10 kilowatts, rather than the 20 kilowatts which the FCC has suggested. (This would be the DRM equivalent of a 50-kilowatt analog transmission.) It is important to keep power levels low in order to minimize adjacent-channel interference. Michel mentioned that Daniel Bochent of TDF is chairing a DRM group on digital-analog protection ratios, and that the DRM Technical Committee is willing to investigate interference complaints.

International Broadcasters' Concerns

Mike Adams noted that the biggest group represented at this meeting was international broadcasters. He asked: "What do you need help with?" Ed Evans suggested that stations need more information on the costs of modifying equipment. He stated that buying new DRM-ready transmitters is going to be too expensive for most NASB members right now. It was explained that those broadcasters who want to modify existing equipment have some options -- basically either high-level Class C operation or linear operation. A lot of this is explained in the new DRM Broadcasters Users Manual, which is now available on the www.drm.org website. Someone explained that that it is easier to meet the ITU mask requirements with linear transmitters than it is with Class C. Of the current DRM transmitters on the air, about 50% are Class C and about 50% are linear.

Marion Hales of the IBB said that the DRM experiments which IBB did recently in Morocco were with 40 kilowatt transmitters. He said: "If we have been using 100 kilowatts analog we could use 20 kilowatts in DRM to get the same coverage." But he explained that they would still need a 100-kilowatt transmitter operating at low power so it can handle the peaks. "So you have to use 7 db lower than the equivalent analog power." He pointed out that new transmitters will be more efficient and will cost less to operate than old modified transmitters.

The representatives from HCJB said that John Stanley of their station is working on a low-cost exciter that feeds a DRM-like signal into your transmitter to see if it will meet the ITU mask requirements.

Other points expressed by broadcasters included:

* We want to know how many receivers have been sold. Why are people buying them? What are they listening to?

* DRM will give broadcasters the opportunity of using scrolling text messages. You can put up to four different language tracks on simultaneously.

* Need for advocacy with the FCC. A lot of NASB members are small stations. We need help from a large organization in dealing with the FCC.

Some of us had been wondering why a station like Radio Free Asia was interested in DRM. Adil Mina of DRS/Continental Electronics explained that 90% of the shortwave transmitters in China are targeting their own people (i.e. domestic broadcasting). "They're all going DRM within five years," he said. So if RFA wants to be listened to in China, it had better be using DRM by then. The same applies to all of the other stations (like the religious broadcasters in NASB) that are transmitting to China.

Addressing Ed Evans' earlier question, Adil said that there are basically two solutions for broadcasters. First, they can buy a new transmitter that will be fully DRM compliant. Or second, Continental can help you modify your old transmitters and get you back up to high efficiency. Both Adil of Continental and Josef Troxler of Thales agreed that linear operation is not a good solution for the long term. It's not efficient if you're using high power.

Mike Adams brought up the situation of WBCQ, an NASB member station in Maine, which has linear transmitters. They want a low-cost exciter solution (for a few thousand dollars) to get on the air in DRM right away. Mike asked if it would be possible to generate IQ files for a station like this to test with -- perhaps a generic 30-minute test transmission, or a two-week run of programs. Could someone encode these files? It would be a cheap, quick solution.

Adil responded that that sort of thing should have been done two years ago. Nowadays we have to meet specifications. Older transmitters might splatter and cause problems. Hans Johnson, representing another small station -- WINB in Pennsylvania -- countered that WBCQ needs to have a cheap solution, since they're selling airtime at \$25 per hour. "Cheap DRM receivers will be out by Christmas," Adil said, "Get your infrastructure in place for full-out DRM implementation. Don't mess around with cheap temporary solutions. There are only 1000 receivers out there now."

Charles Jacobsen of HCJB said that those who are doing DRM research should feel an obligation to share it with the engineering community.

Don Dickey of DRS/Continental suggested that engineers can show their bosses the DRM software radio so they can see how good DRM sounds, picking up the current transmissions from Sackville and Bonaire. Then maybe their bosses will give them approval to spend the money for DRM implementation.

Roger Stubbe of HCJB said: "We're technical people. We need to show our programmers what they can do with DRM that we could never do before."

"Content is very important," Josef Troxler of Thales agreed. "DRM is offering added value to broadcasters -- for example, four different parallel speech channels."

"We are reinventing radio here," said Jacques Bouliane of Radio Canada International. "We need to work together. Technical people can visit us in Sackville to see how DRM works. But at the same time, projects like the Voice of the NASB are good initiatives. You can have a presence in DRM without spending capital money." In other words, stations that don't have the capital to buy or convert to DRM transmitters can simply buy time on existing DRM facilities that sell airtime to outside organizations.

Mike Adams pointed out that at DRM's official launching in Geneva in June of 2003, they wanted to get a many stations as possible on the air in DRM. There were 17 stations on the air at that time. The total had risen to 52 stations by January of 2004. "In Europe, the receiver manufacturers have gotten the message," Mike said. "Do we need stations on the air in the United States in order to stimulate receiver production here?"

Adil suggested that truck drivers would be very interested in DRM, and he said that Texas Instruments has indicated an interest in the DRM consortium.

Transmission Providers

After a break for coffee and Cuban pastries fresh from Miami, each of the DRM time-sellers was given an opportunity to talk about their station.

* RCI-Sackville - Jacques Bouliane said they have a good DRM signal in Eastern North America, and some coverage of Western North America and Central America. They have a "bouquet" of DRM transmissions together on the same frequency, back-to-back from various broadcasters (RCI, BBC, Vatican Radio, etc. -- and they're looking for more). This allows them to give DRM demonstrations at conferences, for example. Presently, they are broadcasting in DRM seven hours a day (from 5:00 p.m. to 12:00 midnight Eastern time), although they have the capacity to expend this to 18 hours per day. The current seven-hour stream contains transmissions in English from CBC RCI, BBC, China Radio International, Radio Sweden and Radio Netherlands. Sackville also transmits a weekly program from TDP Radio on Saturday afternoon. They would like to begin a daily morning block from 6-9 or 8-11 a.m. Eastern time in the near future. The price is 60 euros per hour (approx. US\$ 70). These transmissions are using a 250-kilowatt transmitter with about 70 kilowatts of average DRM power. For more information, contact: jacques_bouliane@radio-canada.ca.

* Radio Netherlands-Bonaire - At DRM launch time last year, Bonaire was transmitting one hour per day in DRM. It is now doing two hours per day (one to the East Coast of North America, and the other to the West Coast). They are open to daily or weekly programs. All programs have to be fed to Hilversum. The contact person at Radio Netherlands is Jan-Peter Werkman: janpeter.werkman@rnw.nl.

* VT Merlin Communications-Rampisham - There is a propagation window to North America from Rampisham daily from 0100-0400 UTC. This could be made available to interested parties. The price for DRM airtime is US\$ 47 per half-hour or US\$ 92 per hour. Program delivery is to London. For more information, contact: james.briggs@merlincommunications.com or Merlin's North American sales representative, Hans Johnson, at: hans@wavecom.net.

* TDF-Montsinnery - Michel Penneroux explained that TéléDiffusion de France has a shortwave relay facility in French Guiana which is soon going to be equipped for DRM transmissions beamed to North America, South America and the Caribbean. They have six 500-kilowatt

transmitters there, plus two rotatable antennas and 12 fixed antennas. Incidentally, TDF has 13 x 500-kw transmitters in Alliss (France), eight 500-kw in Issoudun (France), three 500-kw in Finland, plus shortwave, mediumwave and longwave from Monte Carlo. TDF also has partnerships with transmission sites in Japan, Taiwan, the United Arab Emirates, Libya etc. For more information, contact: michel.penneroux@tdf.fr.

Manufacturers

The next segment of the meeting dealt with DRM equipment manufacturers. Josef Troxler of Thales mentioned that he is doing a broadcasters survey questionnaire to determine broadcasters' plans regarding implementation of DRM. He can send this by e-mail. Those broadcasters who have not yet answered it can request it from Josef at: josef.troxler@thales-bm.ch. The results so far indicate that most broadcasters are planning a long transition period to DRM, not expecting to go fully DRM until about 2010. But everything depends on whether the receivers are on the market.

In that regard, Michel mentioned that RTL intends to make sure there are two million DRM receivers in Europe by 2007. "This is going to happen," he said. RTL has 150 million listeners per day. They will have RTL-branded receivers covering everything below 30 MHz. They are currently working with various car radio manufacturers also.

Adil Mina said that at the November DRM meeting in Dallas we could have a DRM transmitter demonstration, with live broadcasts from Sackville and Bonaire.

Charles Jacobson said "At HCJB, we don't want to compete with the big transmitter companies, but we have working transmitters and we will have a working exciter for shortwave within the next month. We want to promote DRM. Broadcasters who want to do testing can talk to us. We have an obligation to help those who are interested." The exciter will work on a bench at their facility in Indiana, where tests and demonstrations can be done. In September of this year, they plan to do DRM tests in Ecuador on the tropical band. This system could be used for distribution of programming. Charles said that HCJB might be able to offer other broadcasters airtime on a DRM transmitter in Ecuador within the next year.

Along the same lines, Adrian Peterson of AWR pointed out that DRM could be used as a relay for distributing programming to local stations, or direct to listeners.

Tom Yingst of Harris Corp. said that it is very easy to convert Harris' mediumwave transmitters to DRM. He said there should be a DRM/IBOC car radio. Tom thinks DRM will eventually come to the U.S. mediumwave market. Good tests are being done right now in Mexico and South America.

Stream Leaders

At this point, Mike Adams suggested that we choose "stream leaders," which would essentially be committee chairman for various committees under the USA DRM Group umbrella. Mike himself wanted to be the leader of the International Broadcasters stream, and was duly elected. For the Transmitter Manufacturers stream, Adil Mina's name was suggested and he was elected to be the stream leader.

Finally, a chairman of the USA DRM Group was needed. Mike suggested that this be someone who is not necessarily an engineer, but someone with more commercial or public relations experience. Adil suggested Jeff White for the position. His wife Thais gave her approval, since Jeff was due to hand over the presidency of the NASB the next day. Thais pointed out that Jeff speaks Spanish and could liaison well with groups in Mexico and Latin America. Jeff pointed out that he is not an engineer and that his technical knowledge is limited, but Adil said he and others would help him where necessary. In the end, Jeff was elected chairman, and he will be the group's link to the DRM Commercial Committee chaired by Michel Penneroux.

A discussion followed in which various participants mentioned persons and organizations that we should try to get involved in the USA DRM Group, and various writers and trade journals that we should regularly supply information to. We should invite some amateur radio magazine writers -- who are usually freelancers -- to visit RCI in Sackville and do a story about DRM. Adil said we should invite the chief engineers of Clear Channel and some of the other major mediumwave groups to the Dallas DRM meeting in November to try to convince them that DRM should be used by AM stations in the U.S. It was suggested that we should try to make a presentation at next year's National Religious Broadcasters convention about some technical aspect of DRM. We could also have a booth at the Dayton Hamfest next year to promote the software radios with a demonstration. A lot of ham operators who attend that event work as engineers at local radio stations throughout the U.S. And someone also made the suggestion that in addition to promotion among the shortwave listening community, we also need to target the 95% of the market who are not shortwave listeners.

The official DRM meetings in Dallas take place on November 8 and 9. Perhaps the next USA DRM Group meeting can be held in conjunction with these meetings. This will be coordinated with the DRM Consortium and the exact date and details will be confirmed later. Meanwhile, Radio Free Asia welcomed us back to Washington next year at the same time.

DRM Contact Addresses

USA DRM Group Chairman: Jeff White radiomiami9@cs.com
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Transmitter Manufacturers Stream Leader: Adil Mina amina@drs-bt.com
DRM Commercial Committee Chair: Michel Penneroux michel.penneroux@tdf.fr
DRM Technical Committee Chairman: Don Messer dmesser@ibb.gov

NASB ANNUAL MEETING MAY 7, 2004

Washington, DC - The National Association of Shortwave Broadcasters (NASB) at its 2004 annual meeting on May 7th elected Doug Garlinger as the new president of the Association. Doug is the former Director of Engineering for LeSEA Broadcasting, which owns shortwave stations WHRA, WHRI and KWHR. Just a few months ago, he left LeSEA to take an engineering position in Hawaii, but he continues to be active in issues of importance to shortwave broadcasters.

Outgoing NASB President Jeff White commented: "The NASB could not be in better hands. Besides having been a shortwave listener himself since he was a child, Doug is one of the most recognized broadcast engineers in the United States, with many awards to prove it. He has been with the NASB since it was formed, and served as Vice President in the past. Doug is really one

of my mentors, and I know he is committed to continuing and improving a lot of the new projects that the NASB has begun in recent years."

Jeff White's NASB Board term ended at the annual meeting. The membership chose Dennis Dempsey of WEWN Global Catholic Radio to fill the Board vacancy. Paul Hunter, an engineering consultant who represents Word Broadcasting, was re-elected to the Board and as Vice President of the NASB. And Dan Elyea of WYFR Family Radio continues as NASB Secretary-Treasurer.

Also at the NASB annual meeting, the membership agreed to extend the Voice of the NASB DRM (digital shortwave) broadcast series once the current series ends in July of this year. The current series of programs is beamed to Europe, but the new series will be beamed to DRM listeners in North America. Details on the new schedule will be released in the coming weeks.

The NASB welcomed its newest member at the annual meeting -- station KVOH, which was recently sold by Word Broadcasting (which is also an NASB member, and owns WJIE in Kentucky) to a Hispanic church in Los Angeles and is now known as La Voz de la Restauracion. Station Board member Douglas Hernandez attended the NASB meeting in Washington on behalf of the new owners.

Several speakers gave presentations at the meeting, including Tom Lucey from the International Bureau of the FCC. Paul Rinaldo of the American Radio Relay League talked about the BPL (Broadband over Power Lines) controversy and efforts to combat this potential threat to clear shortwave listening. Dr. Adrian Peterson gave a presentation about the history of Adventist World Radio. Mike Adams, who is NASB's liaison to the DRM consortium, talked about developments in DRM, including the recent annual meeting in China; and Michel Penneroux, Chairman of the DRM Commercial Committee, came from Paris to address the NASB membership. Hans Johnson spoke about VT Merlin Communications, and the ever-popular Kim Elliott of the Voice of America talked about shortwave audience research. Some of his colleagues from the International Broadcasting Bureau (IBB) gave updates on the IBB's latest activities.

The day before its annual meeting, the NASB hosted a meeting of the new USA DRM Group which was held at the headquarters of Radio Free Asia in Washington. The purpose was to form a national organization to promote the development of DRM (Digital Radio Mondiale) in the United States. Outgoing NASB President Jeff White was elected Chairman of the new USA DRM Group.

Future issues of the NASB Newsletter will carry summary reports of the presentations made at the 2004 NASB Annual Meeting.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

"Many congratulations to our dear brother Doug. Like Jeff said, indeed we will be in good hands. Is there any truth to the rumor I heard that Doug's condition for accepting the presidency was contingent on holding the next NASB meeting in Hawaii? I am getting my colorful shirts ready! Aloha." --Adil Mina, DRS/Continental Electronics

Editor's Note: While many of us would like nothing better than to meet in Hawaii next year, the membership voted to accept an invitation from Radio Free Asia to meet at the RFA headquarters building in downtown Washington in May of 2005.

SHORTWAVE TRANSMITTERS AVAILABLE FROM WJIE

Word Broadcasting, which operates shortwave station WJIE near Louisville, Kentucky, has three old shortwave transmitters available. Morgan Freeman tells us that one of them is an antique that does not work; the other two are 100-kilowatt RCA's (converted from AM to shortwave) that could be made to work. If anyone is interested, contact Morgan at: morgan@wjie.org.

ADVENTIST WORLD RADIO SPECIAL NASB BROADCAST

As a special event in association with Radio Miami International and the National Association of Shortwave Broadcasters, the Voice of the NASB featured a historic DX program on the weekend of April 17 and 18. This digital-analog relay from Adventist World Radio included an original broadcast of the now-defunct DX program "Radio Monitors International." Originally, this program was recorded in the AWR studios in Pune, India for broadcast on shortwave by the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation in September of 1984. For this special occasion in 2004, AWR confirmed all reception reports with a copy of an early verification card from India as a limited edition QSL.

The schedule for the "Voice of the NASB" over station WRMI is 0230 UTC each Sunday on 7385 kHz. The digital (DRM) version of the program is heard at 1230 UTC Sunday on 9565 kHz via the facilities of VT Merlin in Rampisham, U.K.

Dr. Adrian M. Peterson
DX Editor, AWR

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