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SAD NEWS FROM VT COMMUNICATIONS

Gary Stanley of NASB associate member VT Communications (formerly Merlin Communications), informs us: "It is with great sadness that I have to inform you that my colleague Andy Rook died over the Christmas period. He was due to attend the Mexico City conference."

In fact, Andy was the very first person to register for the Mexico City HFCC Conference, and he was very much looking forward to it. Andy was an excellent liaison between VT Communications and the NASB, having attended some of our last few annual meetings. His participation will certainly be missed, and our sympathies go out to his family and all of his colleagues at VT Communications.

We welcome the group Beth Shalom Center Radio to Associate Membership in the NASB. The introduction below was provided by Andrey Nekrasov.

PROFILE OF NEW NASB ASSOCIATE MEMBER BETH SHALOM RADIO CENTER

Beth Shalom Center Radio is the Ministry of Beth Shalom Center, a Christian non-denominational Russian Church in New York City. Beth Shalom ("House of Peace") was founded in 1996 when a group of three people headed by Estonian Pastor Rev. Juri Popov grew into the largest Russian-speaking Church on the East coast. Today, it counts approximately 600 members – immigrants from the former Soviet Union.

New York is the gate of Russian Immigration. Approximately one million Russian-speakers live here (while two million more are dispersed across the United States), and only the radio can reach such a vast audience. Along with their luggage, immigrants also have brought all their problems. Through our Church the Lord miraculously touches these people and gives their lives back to them. He makes them useful to the society which sheltered them. But in order to bring people to church, it is necessary to tell them about the importance of Christian values, and this is exactly what we do through our Radio.

Beth Shalom Radio was founded in 2001, and today it employs 14 very talented and professionally trained volunteers who, in addition to being Church members, work on air and in the production studio. They have successfully completed voice training and have been instructed in Christian radio journalism techniques. Andrey Nekrasov, the founder and General Manager and Program Producer Shalom Radio, heads the group. Mr. Nekrasov was invited by the Pastor Rev. Juri Popov to work at the church as a religious broadcaster in order to set up a radio station and train radio workers.

At the moment, our group is putting together Christian thematic programs that are being aired by Radio Center in Russia. Radio Center covers practically the entire European part of the former Soviet Union. We have the technical capacity to air live shows across Russia from our specially-equipped studio in Brooklyn, New York. Our programs continue to appear on the air in Sacramento and San Francisco, California. However, our broadcasts in New York had to be stopped due to "restructuring of the Russian-language radio market" which began in 2003 with the arrival of a new Russian-language radio station. As a result, radio frequencies and rates had changed. Our group is preparing documents for the license which will allow us to broadcast in LPFM across Brooklyn. At the same time, there are talks about broadcasting via local community colleges which give air time to various ethnic communities. Unfortunately, very few Russian-speaking young people listen to the radio and in order to reach this audience, we have decided to use new technologies, including DRM (Digital Radio Mondiale). Since the purchase of the first DRM radio receiver, we arrived at the conclusion that this is the future of the shortwave radio so much loved by the immigrants from the former Soviet Union. This is one of the main reasons why we wanted to join NASB.

Interestingly, there are many organizations among your members with whom we worked in Moscow: HCJB, World Christian Broadcasting and others. We are open for cooperation and we will be glad to receive any assistance in our ministry to Russian-speaking Immigrants.

Andrey Nekrasov

Svetlana Graudt (text editing)

<http://www.radiocenter.net>

<http://wap.radiocenter.net>

<http://www.bsmonline.org>

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to e-mail me at radio@bsmonline.org.



Beth Shalom Center Radio

Winter SWL Festival

The 18th annual Winter SWL Festival will take place in Kulpsville, Pennsylvania on March 11 and 12, 2005. Kulpsville is about 30 minutes driving time north of the city of Philadelphia. The convention is the largest gathering of listeners to the radio spectrum — longwave, mediumwave, shortwave (broadcast, utilities, pirates), VHF/UHF, FM, scanners, television and satellites — in the United States, perhaps the world. About 200 persons from around the world attend each year. It is a nice way to break out of the doldrums of the northern hemisphere winter. Broadcaster representatives, clubs, and vendors attend. The emphasis is heavily on shortwave listening and broadcasting. At last year's SWL Winter Fest, the NASB had a large exhibition with representations from many of our member stations, including WMLK, which is located quite near to Kulpsville.

Formal events commence Friday morning, March 11, with registration, and conclude with the post-banquet activities Saturday night. Travelers usually arrive on Thursday (March 10) - the hospitality room opens that afternoon - and depart Sunday (March 13). Many people take some extra time before or after the 'fest to visit area tourist attractions. Complete information on the convention, and a schedule of events when it becomes available, can be found at: www.swlfest.com.

NASB 2005 Annual Meeting

The NASB 2005 Annual Meeting is scheduled for May 6 at the Radio Free Asia headquarters in Washington, DC.

A registration fee of \$50.00 (\$25.00 for each additional person from the same organization) will be charged to cover luncheon and other expenses.

The US DRM Meeting will be held at this same location on May 5.

More details will follow in the near future.

HFCC Mexico Representation

Special message for NASB members who can not be present at the HFCC Conference from Jeff LeCureux of Trans World Radio-Guam:

Please inform all the NASB members that I will be there to represent them again at the HFCC Conference in Mexico February 7-11. Please have them send me any details on their schedules (changes, collisions, etc) at jeff@twrguam.com

HFCC, DRM Meetings in Mexico City in February

The A05 seasonal meeting of the HFCC (High Frequency Coordinating Conference), sponsored by the NASB, the U.S. International Broadcasting Bureau and two Mexican shortwave stations, will take place in Mexico City February 7-11, 2005 at the Hotel Marquis Reforma. Former NASB President Jeff White of WRMI is organizing the event, along with a team of others including NASB Board member Dennis Dempsey of EWTN and current NASB President Doug Garlinger. All three will be present at the conference.

At publication time, the number of delegates registered was 106. They will be coming from shortwave stations and regulatory authorities from around the world -- from the U.S., Canada, Latin America, Europe, the Middle East and Asia. There will also be representatives of sponsoring organizations such as shortwave transmitter, antenna and component manufacturers. NASB member station KNLS is sponsoring a coffee break, and associate member VT Communications is sponsoring an Internet Café. Associate member IBB will be sponsoring a major conference dinner, and associate members TCI Dielectric, Comet North America and Continental Electronics will be sponsoring coffee breaks throughout the one-week meeting. Riz Transmitters Co. of Croatia will also be sponsoring a major conference dinner. For those organizations who would like to sponsor an event at the HFCC Conference, there are still some coffee breaks available for \$600 each. Contact Jeff White for more information at: radiomiami9@cs.com.

This is the first time the HFCC and its sister organization ASBU (Arab States Broadcasting Union) have ever held a meeting in Latin America, and it is the first time that U.S. international broadcasting organizations (the NASB and the IBB) have sponsored an HFCC-ASBU Conference. It is rather fitting, as the first post-World War II effort to coordinate global HF broadcast frequencies took place in Mexico City in 1948 and 1949.

This HFCC-ASBU Conference will also be the first time that a DRM (Digital Radio Mondiale)

Symposium has been held in conjunction with the event. On Wednesday, February 9, there will be a one-day DRM Symposium sponsored by the DRM Consortium, also at the Hotel Marquis Reforma. DRM is inviting Mexican radio stations, networks, producers, regulatory authorities, etc. to attend the Symposium and learn about the advantages of DRM for the Mexican radio industry. In conjunction with this Symposium and the HFCC Conference, Riz Transmitters Co. plans to do a live demonstration of DRM reception on 26 MHz, and another transmitter company may do a demonstration of DRM on the AM band. Special permits are being issued by the Mexican Ministry of Communications for these DRM tests, and they are being conducted in cooperation with Radio Educacion, one of the conference co-sponsors. The DRM broadcasts will air the programming of Radio Educacion, a cultural station that is owned by the Mexican Ministry of Public Education and broadcasts on both AM and shortwave (1060 and 6185 kHz).

Below you will find the tentative agenda for the HFCC-ASBU Conference, as well as the DRM Symposium. We encourage all NASB members and others involved in international HF frequency management to take part in the HFCC Conference. There is still time to register. More details can be found at: www.hfcc.org/mexico.html. The registration fee is \$120 per person, and a registration form can be obtained by e-mailing Jeff White at: radiomiami9@cs.com.

Tentative Agenda- A05 HFCC Conference - Mexico City, Mexico

Sunday, Feb. 6, 2005

1000-1600 Registration desk opens at Hotel Marquis Reforma for delegate registration.

1600-2100 Optional tour of Mexico City by bus, "Historical and Modern Mexico." The approximate cost is USD 10 per person. We will visit the city's main plaza, "Constitution Plaza" (also known as the "Zócalo"), one of the largest plazas in the world. In the plaza, we will see the Government Palace and the gigantic murals by painter Diego Rivera depicting more than 1200 people who illustrate the history of Mexico. We will also visit the Metropolitan Cathedral with its famous Altar of the Kings. We will have a panoramic view of the Templo Mayor ruins which have been excavated from the ancient city of Tenochtitlan, upon which Mexico City was constructed. We will continue with a visit to Alameda Park, the old Post Office and the Palace of Fine Arts. We then return to the Hotel Marquis Reforma, and dinner is on your own.

Monday, February 7, 2005

0700-1100 Breakfast buffet on your own at the Hotel Marquis Reforma (free for everyone staying at the hotel).

0900-1800 Conference registration desk is open at hotel, just outside the Emperatriz 2-3 meeting room.

0900-1800 Internet Center is open in main meeting room, Emperatriz 2-3, sponsored by **VT Communications**

1000-1100 Official conference opening at hotel - remarks by meeting hosts and HFCC/ASBU officials; opening plenary session. In Emperatriz 2-3 meeting room.

1100-1130 Coffee break, sponsored by **World Christian Broadcasting (KNLS in Anchor Point, Alaska)**

1130-1230 Morning coordination in Emperatriz meeting room at the hotel.

1230-1330 Buffet lunch at the hotel restaurant. Optional group event; each person pays his/her own meal. Cost is USD 18 plus 15% gratuity.

1330-1430 Afternoon coordination in Emperatriz meeting room at the hotel.

1430-1500 Coffee break, sponsored by **Comet North America**

1500-1700 Afternoon coordination continues in Emperatriz meeting room at the hotel.

1700-1800 Presentation in the Emperatriz meeting room: "80 Years of Radio Educación on AM and Shortwave," by Perla Olivia Rodríguez, Programming and Production Manager of Radio Educación, a station owned by the Mexican Ministry of Public Education.

1800 Buses leave hotel for reception at Radio Educación

1830-2030 Tour and reception at Radio Educación

2030 Buses leave Radio Educación for return trip to Hotel Marquis Reforma

2100 Dinner on your own at the hotel or at one of many restaurants within walking distance or a short taxi ride to the "Zona Rosa" or the fashionable Polanco area.

Tuesday, February 8, 2005

0700-1100 Buffet breakfast on your own at the hotel (free for all staying at the hotel).

0900-1700 Conference registration desk is open just outside the Emperatriz meeting room.

0900-1700 Internet Center is open in Emperatriz meeting room, sponsored by **VT Communications**

0900-1100 Morning coordination in Emperatriz meeting room at hotel.

1100-1130 Coffee break, sponsored by **the Broadcast and Communications Group of TCI, a Dielectric company**

1130-1230 Morning coordination continues in Emperatriz meeting room.

1230-1330 Buffet lunch at hotel restaurant. Optional group event; each person pays for his/her own meal.

1330-1430 Afternoon coordination in Emperatriz meeting room.

1430-1500 Coffee break (sponsorship opportunity)

1500-1700 Afternoon coordination continues in Emperatriz meeting room.

1700 Buses leave hotel for Núcleo Radio Mil.

1730-1900 Tour of the corporate headquarters of Núcleo Radio Mil Communications, followed by a welcome reception.

1900 Buses leave Radio Mil for Santa Fe Mall

1905-2000 An opportunity to explore the Santa Fe Mall (largest in Mexico), do some shopping, and have dinner on your own. There are many restaurants, including the Rainforest Cafe (a simulated indoor rainforest with Mexican and international cuisine), La Calle (a simulated Mexican street scene with policemen as waiters, serving authentic Mexican food), El Rincon de Santa Fe (Argentine steakhouse), Italianni's and Stuffa (two Italian restaurants), TGI Friday's (American cuisine) and many fast food restaurants. Please note that most of the stores in the mall and most of the fast food restaurants close at 2000; the other restaurants are open later. So we suggest you do your shopping until 2000, and then have dinner.

2130 Buses leave restaurant for hotel

2200 Buses return to Hotel Marquis Reforma.

Wednesday, February 9, 2005

0700-1100 Buffet breakfast on your own at the hotel (free for all staying at the hotel).

0900-1800 Conference registration desk is open just outside Emperatriz meeting room.

0900-1800 Internet Center is open in Emperatriz meeting room, sponsored by **VT Communications**

0900-1100 Morning coordination in Emperatriz meeting room at hotel.

0930-1600 DRM Symposium in Emperatriz 1 meeting room (right beside HFCC Conference in Emperatriz 2 and 3). This meeting is primarily for representatives of local Mexican radio stations who want to learn about DRM technology. Some HFCC Conference participants may speak at the DRM Symposium.

1100-1130 Coffee break, sponsored by the **U.S. International Broadcasting Bureau (IBB)**

1130-1230 Morning coordination continues in Emperatriz meeting room.

1230-1330 Buffet Lunch at hotel restaurant. Optional group event; each person pays his/her own meal.

1330-1430 Afternoon coordination in Emperatriz meeting room.

1430-1500 Coffee break (Sponsorship opportunity)

1500-1700 Afternoon coordination continues in Emperatriz meeting room.

1700-1800 Presentation in Emperatriz meeting room by Perry Priestly of Thales Broadcast and Multimedia about DRM developments and Thales' DRM-related product lines.

1900-2200 HFCC Gala Dinner at Hotel Marquis Reforma, sponsored by **RIZ Transmitters**. There will also be a live DRM transmitter and receiver demonstration by RIZ. The buffet dinner, which will be in the Emperador 2-3 rooms, will feature Mexican cuisine and Mexican wines.

Thursday, February 10, 2005

0700-1100 Breakfast buffet on your own at the hotel (free for all staying at the hotel).

0900-1800 Conference registration desk is open just outside the Emperatriz meeting room.

0900-1800 Internet Center is open in Emperatriz meeting room, sponsored by **VT Communications**

0900-1100 Morning coordination in Emperatriz meeting room.

1100-1130 Coffee break, sponsored by **DRS Broadcast Technology - Continental Electronics**

1130-1230 Morning coordination continues in Emperatriz meeting room.

1230-1330 Buffet lunch in hotel restaurant. Optional group event; each person pays his/her own meal.

1330-1430 Afternoon coordination in Emperatriz meeting room at hotel.

1430-1500 Coffee break, sponsored by **DRS Broadcast Technology - Continental Electronics**

1500-1600 Afternoon coordination continues in Emperatriz meeting room.

1600-1800 Plenary session in Emperatriz room

1800 The evening is free for sightseeing, shopping and dinner or your own. We will offer some suggestions.

Friday, February 11, 2005

0700-1100 Buffet breakfast on your own at the hotel (free for all staying at the hotel).

0900-1300 Conference registration desk open just outside the Emperatriz meeting room.

0900-1300 Internet Center is open in Emperatriz meeting room, sponsored by **VT Communications**

0900-1100 Morning coordination in Emperatriz meeting room at hotel.

1100-1130 Coffee break (Sponsorship opportunity)

1130-1200 Official closing of conference in Emperatriz meeting room.

1200-1300 Farewell reception -- Mexican tropical drinks and cocktails (alcoholic and non-alcoholic) in the La Plaza Terrace, near the hotel Rotunda, sponsored by **Thales Broadcast and Multimedia**

1300-1400 Buffet lunch in hotel restaurant. Optional group event; each person pays his/her own meal.

1400-2000 Optional tour by bus to the ancient pyramids of Teotihuacan, on the outskirts of Mexico City. The approximate cost is USD 10 per person. We will visit the ancient city of

Teotihuacan, where you can walk along the Boulevard of the Dead and sense the grandeur of the "Place of the Gods" while visiting the Pyramid of the Sun and the Pyramid of the Moon. We will also visit a handicraft center where you can purchase high-quality Mexican handicrafts, and there will be a stop for an optional dinner (each person pays his/her own meal) at one of the traditional restaurants of the region.

2000 Buses return to Hotel Marquis Reforma.

Saturday, February 12, 2005 - Monday, February 14, 2005

0800 Buses leave for an optional two-night trip to the popular tourist resort of Acapulco on the Pacific coast. En route, we will visit Cuernavaca, "the City of Eternal Spring," including its grand cathedral. We will continue to the city of Taxco, a place that preserves its history with its original cobblestone streets and the exquisite temple of Santa Prisca. We will stop at a small silver jewelry factory where you can watch artisans doing their traditional silver crafting work. After an optional lunch in Taxco, we will continue to the beautiful port of Acapulco where you stay until Monday morning. On Sunday there will be a city tour to see "La Quebrada" (where swimmers dive off mountain cliffs into the Pacific Ocean below), the "Pie de la Cuesta" with its spectacular sunsets and occasional sightings of dolphins and whales, Port Marques, and an optional boat excursion in Acapulco Bay. You can also enjoy the beautiful beach right behind the hotel, and the famous Acapulco nightlife with its discotheques, bars and restaurants. The tour will cost approximately USD 125 per person in double occupancy (or approximately USD 190 per person for single occupancy), and will include luxury bus transportation round-trip from Mexico City to Acapulco, two nights' accommodation in Acapulco at the Calinda Beach Hotel and tour guides along the way. Meals and other expenses are on your own. Buses will return to Mexico City by 1600 hours on Monday, Feb. 14, in time to catch evening airline flights.

Symposium Agenda

The Advantages of DRM for the Mexican Radio Industry

February 9, 05

Marquis Reforma Hotel, Mexico City

Agenda:

9:00-9:20	Inauguration	Inauguration/Opening Remarks
9:20-9:45	Peter Senger, DRM Chairman/DW	DRM's Success & Global Implementation
9:45 -10:30	Donald Messer, DRM TC Chairman/IBB-VOA	DRM: How It Works & What it Can do for You
10:30 -11:00	Darko Cvjetko, RIZ Transmitter Co.	DRM Transmitter Developments
11:00-11:30	DRM Live Demos and Coffee Break	

11:30-11:45	P. Angueira Buceta, Univ. del Pays Vasco	Results of DRM MW Tests in Spain
11:45-12:00	Norbert Schall, Deutsche Welle	DRM Coverage
12:00-1:00	Lunch	
1:00-1:30	Michel Penneroux, TDF	DRM's Commercial Roll-Out
1:30 – 1:50	Anton Hierhager, Texas Instruments	DRM Chipsets and Receivers
1:50 - 2:15	John Sykes, BBC World Service	DRM from a Broadcaster's Perspective
2:15-2:30	Paul Linnarz, KAS Peru	DRM in Mexico
2:30-3:00	Brief Coffee Break	
3:00-4:30	Discussion and Q&A Moderated by Peter Senger: DRM's Advantages for the Mexican Broadcasting Industry	

The Discussion and Q&A involves all the previous speakers and all the audience. Panelists include the above speakers plus:

Don Messer: Regulatory Information for Region 2

Jeff White: DRM USA Group; DRM in the USA and Latin America

Others to be determined

Voice of the NASB Extends DRM Transmissions

The NASB Board of Directors voted in January to extend the weekly "Voice of the NASB" half-hour radio programs in DRM which are broadcast each Saturday at 1700 UTC on 11900 kHz to North America. Each week the program features excerpts from NASB member and associate member stations' programming. Recently, the series has focused mostly on DX programs, in an effort to encourage the more technically-minded shortwave listeners to try tuning in the transmissions in DRM mode. The Voice of the NASB is broadcast via the transmitters of Radio Canada International in Sackville, New Brunswick. The Board extended NASB's contract with RCI until the end of the B04 broadcast season at the end of March.

U.S. DRM Group Inaugurates Website

The United States DRM Group inaugurated its new website in December 2004. It is sponsored by NASB associate member Continental Electronics, which is a key member of the group. The initial material on the website includes reports on the November 2004 DRM meetings in Dallas, Texas, but the content will be greatly expanded during 2005. The address for the site is: www.usdrm.com.

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