



## **Hessen Digital Radio GmbH press release**

### **Positive DAB signals from Hesse: planet radio and harmony.fm available nationwide via digital radio for the first time**

**(Frankfurt am Main, December 9, 2004) The two music stations planet radio and harmony.fm can now be received in Hesse via digital radio (channel 12 C). This was announced today by the Managing Director at Hessen Digital Radio GmbH, Dirk Risse. Both radio programs have only been broadcast in parts of Hesse on VHF to date. While planet radio is a new feature on digital radio, harmony.fm has switched from the local coverage area Frankfurt am Main (L-band) to the national DAB channel. This means that 4 instead of just 3 programs will now be available nationwide via digital radio.**

For Dirk Risse, Managing Director of Hessen Digital Radio GmbH, this is a pioneering step for digital radio: "The add-on connection of the two programs provides listeners with a more varied program. Digital radio does not just offer the same programs we are familiar with from VHF. On the contrary – whole new programs are available to listeners via DAB throughout Germany." While harmony.fm woos its listeners with "classic hits & good-mood music", planet radio offers a mixture of house, dance, hip-hop, black music & soul.

The supervisory authority in Hesse also rates the add-on connection positively. It sees the future of radio in digitalization. "Digital radio and digital terrestrial television are the broadcasting links that make additional service features possible. New radio programs that are not broadcast via VHF or nationwide will increase the success of digital radio ", said Professor Wolfgang Thaenert, Director of the Hessian State Broadcasting Authority for Private Radio and Television (LPR Hessen).

Hans-Dieter Hillmoth, Managing Director and Program Director of Radio/Tele FFH with its programs HIT RADIO FFH, planet radio and harmony.fm said, "Radio/Tele FFH is now switching the planet radio and harmony.fm programs to the DAB channel as they cannot be received everywhere via VHF. Perhaps this will help give this broadcasting link the popularity it needs." However, Hillmoth also made it clear that this step is still difficult in economic terms without financial support for the broadcasting charges from the LPR Hessen.

#### **Via digital radio**

In addition to crystal-clear radio broadcasting, digital radio also allows the transmission of data. This means that listeners will be able to retrieve service information such as traffic reports on Hesse's motorways or arrival and departure times of trains at the stations Frankfurt Central, Frankfurt Airport, Kassel-Wilhelmshöhe, Gießen, Fulda, Wiesbaden and Darmstadt. Take-off and landing times at Frankfurt airport are also available. In addition, Hessen Digital Radio GmbH currently provides the so-called TMC (Traffic Message Channel) on digital radio. This technology enables dynamic traffic navigation throughout Germany.

More information on digital radio in Hesse at: [www.hessendigitalradio.de](http://www.hessendigitalradio.de).

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