



## PRESS RELEASE

Date: 6 September 2005

### **Arqiva wins four new FM transmission contracts**

- **Blackburn, Durham, Kidderminster and Ashford**
- **Tailored transmission systems to suit local requirements**
- **First group of new FM licences from Ofcom**

Arqiva (formerly NTL Broadcast) has been awarded four 12-year contracts to provide transmission services for a new generation of FM radio stations. Of the 35 radio licences planned by Ofcom, this is the first batch of smaller-scale stations to progress to the transmission contract stage.

The Bee, majority-owned by The Radio Business Limited and The Local Radio Company, will serve an adult population of around 150,000 in Blackburn, Darwen, Accrington, Clayton-le-Moors and Great Harwood.; Durham FM, owned by The Local Radio Company, is to cover 160,000 adults in the city of Durham and immediate area; The Wyre, owned by Midlands News Association Limited, will serve 100,000 in Kidderminster and its surroundings; and KM-FM Ashford, majority-owned by Kent Messenger Ltd, will broadcast to an adult population of 60,000 in and around Ashford.

Pete 'Waggy' Wagstaff at The Wyre said: "We're proud to be right at the start of this new wave of FM stations, and happy to rely on Arqiva for transmission. Ours is a relatively small-scale requirement but when you only have one transmitter, you really need it to work!"

Paul Eaton, Head of Radio at Arqiva, added: "It's great to see another expansion of analogue commercial radio running alongside the great strides that digital is making. It just goes to show that the Radio medium is stronger than ever, regardless of the technology. We're delighted to demonstrate that we can attract the smaller stations, meeting demands on an individual basis –especially with good transmission sites and creative use of antenna design. All these stations will have our full support as they develop throughout their licence period."

-Ends-

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**More on Arqiva (previously known as NTL Broadcast):**

Arqiva, formerly the broadcast division of NTL Group, has a 50-year history in transmission and has helped pioneer the technologies of the digital age. 22 million UK homes receive ITV, Channel 4 and five via Arqiva's national transmitter networks. The company also provides transmission for most UK independent radio stations, both analogue and digital. In addition Arqiva provides end-to-end media solutions to the broadcast industry across terrestrial and satellite platforms. This includes satellite uplinking, satellite newsgathering, outside broadcast facilities, programme presentation, play-out and distribution. With a portfolio of over 2000 radio sites across the UK, Arqiva's Wireless Solutions group specialises in shared mobile and cellular network infrastructure, from conventional masts and towers, urban and in-building solutions to access circuits, managed back-haul and core network provision. Arqiva's Public Safety group provides a full range of support services to the UK police, fire, ambulance and other emergency services including design and installation of integrated telecommunications systems, radio system maintenance and fully managed services.

[www.arqiva.com](http://www.arqiva.com)

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