



PRESS RELEASE

Date: 14 November 2005

Arqiva secures new metropolitan FM contracts

- **Belfast, Edinburgh and Manchester**
- **12-year managed transmission service**
- **Maximum coverage to increase choice for analogue listeners**

Arqiva has won FM transmission contracts for three new metropolitan radio stations in 12-year deals worth over £1 million. Belfast, Edinburgh and Manchester all have long-established commercial FM stations and these new licences will increase the diversity of services currently available to analogue listeners in those areas.

For Belfast and the surrounding area, the UTV-owned **U105** will provide topical speech, and music from the Gold era right through to the present day, aimed mainly at a 45+ audience. The station goes on-air today from Arqiva's Black Mountain transmitter.

allTALK FM is a new 24-hour talk radio station for Edinburgh also wholly-owned by UTV plc. Around 1 million people will be served from the Arqiva mast at Craigmyle. The service is due to launch in February 2006.

And in Greater Manchester, the GCap Media station **Xfm** launches in early-2006 with Indie rock for a potential audience of around 2 million.

John Rosborough, managing director of U105, said: "We're very happy to be working with Arqiva, who have shown once again that they understand the needs of the radio industry and offer the best possible coverage. We're raring to go!"

Paul Eaton, Arqiva's head of broadcast radio, added: "These larger-scale metropolitan services will have maximum reach and offer additional choice on FM well beyond city boundaries. We look forward to helping all three stations get on-air successfully and supporting them through their licence period."

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More on Arqiva

Arqiva has a 50-year history in transmission and has helped pioneer the technologies of the digital age. The company has five operating divisions:

- **Terrestrial Media Solutions** – provides national transmission for UK commercial television including ITV, Channel 4, Five and associated digital multiplexes, playing a leading role in the run-up to digital switchover. Transmission services also provided to vast majority of UK independent radio stations, both analogue and digital.
- **Satellite Media Solutions** – provides high quality and flexible solutions to a diverse range of international customers. Includes permanent and occasional broadcast services as well as IP, voice, data and digital media networks. Operational bases in London, Gerrards Cross, Winchester, Feltham and Bedford.
- **Mobile Media Solutions** – new division dedicated to the delivery of content to handheld devices. Recent technology developments open up new service concepts and revenue streams for broadcasters, content providers and mobile operators alike. Arqiva is platform-neutral and has mounted pioneering technical and commercial trials with partners such as Microsoft, O2 and Nokia.
- **Wireless Solutions** – provides market-leading, multi-operator infrastructure systems and services to wireless telecoms, transport and interior public space businesses. This is done through a portfolio of over 2400 towers, masts and managed sites, plus InBuilding (indoor coverage) and CityCell (urban coverage) products
- **Public Safety** – provides frontline communications for the UK emergency services, government agencies and commercial organisations including design and installation, system maintenance and fully managed services for mobile radio, telecommunications and mobile data solutions.

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