
Small-scale radio multiplex licence

Application form – Part A (public)

Name of applicant (i.e. the body corporate that will hold the licence):

Bristol Digital Radio CIC

Multiplex licence area being applied for (note this must be a small-scale multiplex area currently being advertised by Ofcom):

East Bristol, Mangotsfield and Keynsham

Contact details for Ofcom:

Nick Piggott, Director
Email: nick@bristoldigitalradio.org

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1. Overview

You should complete this form if you are applying for a small-scale radio multiplex licence. You can find further information about small-scale radio multiplex services in the [Guidance notes for applicants and licensees](#).

This application form is divided into two parts – **Part A** (which we will publish on our website) and **Part B** (which will be kept confidential). This document constitutes Part A; [Part B of the application form](#) is available on our website.

If you encounter any issues using these forms, please contact broadcast.licensing@ofcom.org.uk.

The purpose of this form

- 1.1 You should complete this form if you are applying for a licence to provide a small-scale radio multiplex service (a ‘small-scale radio multiplex licence’). A small-scale radio multiplex service is the means by which DAB digital radio stations (‘digital sound programme services’) are broadcast, and can transmit around ten stereo digital sound programme services (or a significantly higher number if the DAB+ standard is utilised). The application form is divided into two parts – **Part A** (which we will publish on our website) and **Part B** (which will be kept confidential). This document constitutes Part A; [Part B of the application form](#) is available on our website.
- 1.2 Small-scale radio multiplex licences are awarded by Ofcom in a competitive process. Applications are judged against specified criteria, and Ofcom awards the licence to the applicant which it considers best meets the criteria.
- 1.3 You can find more information about small-scale radio multiplex licences in Ofcom’s published [guidance notes](#) for licence applicants and licensees. This document also includes detailed instructions on how to complete the application form, and information on the next steps in the application process. Please read this guidance and the ‘frequently asked questions’ carefully before completing both parts of the application form.

Provision of information

- 1.4 Ofcom requires complete and accurate information to assess applications. In particular, we must be satisfied that those applying for a licence are ‘fit and proper’ to hold a licence and are not disqualified from participation in a licence.
- 1.5 It is an offence under the Broadcasting Act 1996 (as amended) to provide false information or withhold relevant information during the application process, and may be grounds for revocation of a licence subsequently granted.

Publication of applications

- 1.6 Part A of the application form (i.e. this document) will be published by Ofcom on our website as soon as practicable following the closing-date for applications. Part B of the application form will remain confidential. Non-confidential responses to any clarification or amplifications will also be published on the Ofcom website, alongside the Part A application form. Ofcom may take into account any comments received from the public, which can be made to it with respect to Part A of the application submitted.
- 1.7 In submitting Part A of the application, you agree that Ofcom may publish contact details for the licensee (as required on the cover of this application form), which may include personal data, on the Ofcom website and/or in other relevant publications. If you have any questions about the information we publish, or there are any changes to this information, you should contact the Broadcast Licensing team by email (broadcast.licensing@ofcom.org.uk).
- 1.8 Ofcom considers issued small-scale radio multiplex licences to be public documents and copies of licences will be made available to third parties on request, noting that personal data apart from the name of the licensee may be redacted.

Data protection

- 1.9 We require the information requested in this form in order to carry out our licensing duties under the Broadcasting Act 1990, Broadcasting Act 1996 and Communications Act 2003. Please see Ofcom's [General Privacy Statement](#) for further information about how Ofcom handles your personal information and your corresponding rights.

Keeping up to date with broadcasting matters

- 1.10 We strongly recommend that you sign up to receive Ofcom's regular email updates on broadcasting matters including notification when the Broadcast Bulletin is published.
- 1.11 Ofcom publishes a [monthly radio licensing update](#) which lists new services licensed, licences revoked, licence transfers, and changes to licensed services during the past month.
- 1.12 To sign up to receive these communications, please visit <https://www.ofcom.org.uk/about-ofcom/latest/email-updates> and select 'Broadcasting'.

2. Extent of proposed coverage area

About this section

Under section 51(2)(a) of the 1996 Act, we are required to consider the extent of the coverage area an applicant proposes to achieve within the area which has been advertised. This section therefore asks you to describe the coverage you are proposing to achieve. Further questions on the detailed technical arrangements for the proposed service, including questions on the transmission site(s) that you intend to use and your plans for how the multiplexing and distribution of your service will be arranged are contained in Part B of the application form.

Before completing this section of the form, you should read carefully the notes on 'Extent of proposed coverage area' in Section 4 of Ofcom's [guidance notes for licence applicants and licensees](#).

- 2.1 Provide a summary, fully consistent with the more detailed information about transmission sites supplied separately in Part B, of the coverage area proposed to be achieved by your technical plan. This should include a description of the target area you are seeking to serve within the advertised licence area, and also any areas you are aiming to serve outside the advertised licence area for this small-scale radio multiplex service. (You may refer to your coverage prediction in the response you provide):

On reviewing Ofcom's licence area maps, we feel that the proposed areas do not well match the social or physical geography of the city. The population within less than 1½ miles of the western boundary of this area accounts for nearly 80,000 people who receive the existing FM community radio services in the City of Bristol.

We felt that constraining our coverage to the advertised rectangle would leave key urban areas (both inside and outside the defined area) without high quality coverage of Small Scale DAB, and force the analogue community radio stations in the City of Bristol to seek carriage on both our multiplex and the Clevedon, Avonmouth and Filton multiplex (where they would not be entitled to protected C-DSP slots) to reach the same audiences they do now on FM.

On that basis we have committed to using two sites to deliver high quality indoor coverage across most of the urban and suburban population of the advertised area, and then extended our coverage into Hotwells, Clifton, Cotham, Redland and up to Horfield with a better quality and more consistent signal than we believe can be reasonably achieved from within the Clevedon, Avonmouth and Filton area.

We have cooperated with our colleagues at Severnside Digital Radio to ensure that they will extend their majority coverage of South Gloucestershire into the areas of South Gloucestershire (Downend, Frenchay, Emerson Green, Lyde Green) that we can not cover due to population constraints.

As a result of this local coordination, based on our local knowledge, the unique population coverage of the two multiplexes is increased, and people in the two areas have access to good quality Small Scale DAB signals that are relevant to them.

We have supplemented the two sites providing coverage to the City of Bristol with a third site east of the city, shared with KTCR (the community radio station for Keynsham). This

additional site adds coverage of Keynsham and the surrounding areas, including Longwell Green, Oldland Common and areas east of Kingswood.

We recognise that we have left the population south of Dundry Hill currently unserved. There are no radio services dedicated to this area, and none of our service providers have identified it as a priority for them. We have allowed sufficient margin in our planning to allow us to add this area to our coverage at a later date.

- 2.2 Please provide a coverage prediction map for the whole transmitter network you are proposing to build within 18 months if you are awarded a licence. The map should show the 63 dBµV/m field strength and the advertised small-scale DAB licence area contour. [Small-scale DAB licence areas in GIS format](#) are available on the [Ofcom website](#).
- 2.3 Please provide the following details of the prediction software used for your coverage assessments:

Provide the name and version of the prediction tool used.	HTZ Communications (V23.0.0 version 1456)
Detail the terrain model used by the software and its resolution.	Ordnance Survey Terrain 50m
Detail the ground cover (clutter) data used by the software and its resolution.	DEFRA and OSM at 50m
What propagation algorithm has been used?	Deygout 94
Where multiple sites are proposed, describe what methodology has been used to assess the network (SFN) gain	Power sum method
If these predictions have not used Ofcom-provided population data, state what population data has been used and its source.	OFCOM provided population data used (2011 Census data)
Have your predictions been generated by a commercial organisation? If so, by whom?	Muxnet Limited

3. Ability to establish the proposed service

About this section

In Section 3, we are asking questions about the applicant company, its financial and business plan, the relevant expertise and experience of those who will be involved in providing the small-scale radio multiplex service, and the timetable for coverage roll-out. The answers to these questions will enable Ofcom to assess the application under section 51(2)(c) of the 1996 Act. Additional information will be submitted in Part B.

In the first part of this section we are asking for details of the applicant's officers (directors or, in the case of LLPs, designated members), its shareholders and participants. Where applicable, we are also asking for details of the officers of the applicant's parent and associated companies or LLPs etc.

If any of the individuals named in your responses are known by more than one name/version of their name, all names must be provided.

Certain persons are disqualified from holding a small-scale radio multiplex licence. This section asks the questions which enable us to consider this for those types of disqualification which apply specifically to bodies corporate. It also asks questions which are relevant to our assessment of the applicant's fitness and properness to hold a small-scale radio multiplex licence.

The response boxes and tables should be expanded or repeated where necessary, or provided in a separate annex.

'Officerships' in this section refers to: directorships of bodies corporate, designated memberships of LLPs, or membership of a governing body of an unincorporated association (including partnerships).

The remaining questions in Section 3 relate to the applicant's financial and business plan, the expertise and experience of those involved, and the planned timetable for launching the proposed multiplex service.

Applicant's details

- 3.1 Name of applicant (i.e. the body corporate that will hold the licence):

Bristol Digital Radio CIC

- 3.2 Company registration number stated on Companies House (if applicable):

12309694

- 3.3 For UK registered companies, the address of the applicant's registered office stated on Companies House. For non-UK registered companies, the principal office address:

Brook Way Activity Centre Brook Way, Bradley Stoke, Bristol, BS32 9DA

- 3.4 If a UK registered company, is the **current** Memorandum and Articles of Association document available on the Companies House website?

Yes

- 3.5 Contact details of the individual duly authorised by the applicant for the purposes of making this application. This individual should be the company secretary or a director.

Full name	Nick Piggott
Job title	Director
Address	Brook Way Activity Centre Brook Way, Bradley Stoke, Bristol, BS32 9DA
Telephone	0330 229 1830
Mobile phone	07976 200 128
Email	nick@bristoldigitalradio.org

Ownership and control of company which will hold the licence

Details of officers, participants and shareholders of the applicant

- 3.6 Please provide the following details for each director or designated member of the applicant:

Full name of individual	Correspondence address	Country of residence	Other officerships held (and nature of the business concerned)	Other employment
James Witcombe	Brook Way Activity Centre Brook Way, Bradley Stoke, Bristol, BS32 9DA	United Kingdom	Director - Bradley Stoke Radio Ltd (community radio station) Director - Severnside Digital Radio CIC (small-scale multiplex applicant)	
Patrick Hart	Brook Way Activity Centre Brook Way, Bradley Stoke, Bristol, BS32 9DA	United Kingdom	Director - Severnside Digital Radio CIC (small-scale multiplex applicant)	Chief Executive - Bristol Community FM Ltd
Donald McTernan	Brook Way Activity Centre Brook Way, Bradley Stoke, Bristol, BS32 9DA	United Kingdom	Director - Ujima Radio CIC (community radio station) Director - Severnside Digital Radio CIC (small-scale multiplex applicant)	Community Worker

Nicholas Piggott	Brook Way Activity Centre Brook Way, Bradley Stoke, Bristol, BS32 9DA	United Kingdom	Director - MuxNet UK Ltd (digital radio multiplex services provider) Director - Radiate Ideas Ltd (Media technology consultancy) Director - Severnside Digital Radio CIC (small-scale multiplex applicant)	Project Director, RadioDNS Ltd
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3.7 Please identify any entities with which the applicant is affiliated:

(If this question is not applicable to the applicant please respond "N/A" in the table.)

Full name of the entity	Address
N/A	

3.8 Complete the following table, expanding it if necessary, to list all bodies corporate which are controlled by the applicant, and their affiliates:

Full name of entity	Address	Affiliates
N/A		

3.9 Complete the following table, expanding it if necessary, to list all persons who control the applicant, together with their affiliates. If any persons or bodies control the applicant jointly because they act together in concert (e.g. because of a shareholder's agreement), each such person must be identified here:

Full name of individual or body	Address	Affiliates
Bristol Community fm Ltd	Easton Community Centre, Kilburn Street, Bristol BS5 6AW	
Ujima Radio CIC	The Station, Silver Street, Bristol, BS1 2AG	

- 3.10 Complete the following table, expanding it if necessary, to list all officerships in other bodies that are held by any individual listed in response to question 3.9, and any affiliates of those bodies:

Full name of individual	Name of body in which officership held	Affiliates of that body
None		

- 3.11 Complete the following table, expanding it if necessary, to list all bodies corporate which are controlled by any body corporate listed in response to question 3.9, and their affiliates:

Full name of body corporate listed in 3.9	Body corporate controlled	Affiliates of body corporate controlled
None		

- 3.12 In relation to each body corporate identified in response to question 3.9, complete the following table, expanding it if necessary, to list all bodies which hold or are beneficially entitled to shares, or who possess voting powers, amounting to more than 5% in the body corporate concerned ("participants"). You may, but are not required to, exclude from this table any bodies listed in response to question 3.9. If you are unable to provide a complete answer to this question in relation to beneficial owners, please state whether you have any reason to suspect the existence of any beneficial owners.

Name of APPLICANT	Bristol Digital Radio CIC			
Full name of >5% participant	Number of shares	Total investment (£s)	Total investment (%)	% of voting rights
Ujima Radio CIC	40	40	40	40
Bristol Community FM Ltd	40	40	40	40
Bradley Stoke Radio Ltd	20	20	20	20
Comments				
None of the listed shareholders have shareholders				

Involvement of the applicant in specified activities

- 3.13 Please state below whether the applicant, or any of the directors, shareholders or other individuals named above, including their associates (i.e. directors of their associates and other group companies), is, or is involved in, any of the below, and the extent of that interest.

Activity/involvement	Yes or No	Please state who is involved; the name of the body/individual/agency they are involved with; and the extent of their involvement
a) A local authority	No	
b) A body whose objects are wholly or mainly of a political nature, or which is affiliated to such a body	No	
c) A body whose objects are wholly or mainly of a religious nature;	No	
d) An individual who is an officer of a body falling within (b) or (c);	No	
e) A body corporate which is an associate (as defined in paragraphs 1(1) and 1(1A) of Part I of Schedule 2 to the Broadcasting Act 1990) of a body falling within (b) or (c);	No	
f) An advertising agency or an associate of an advertising agency	No	

Details of applications, licences and sanctions

- 3.14 Is the applicant a current licensee of Ofcom?

No

- 3.15 Has the applicant held an Ofcom broadcasting licence before?

No

- 3.16 Has anyone involved in the proposed service, held an Ofcom broadcasting licence or been involved in an Ofcom-licensed broadcast service before?

Yes

Dates licence was held or dates of involvement	Licence number (if known)	Name of service or multiplex
Current	CR000116	Ujima Radio
Current	CR000232	Bradley Stoke Radio
Current	CR000078	Bristol Community fm

- 3.17 Does the applicant control an existing Ofcom licensee?

No

- 3.18 Is the applicant controlled by an existing licensee or by any person who is connected (within the meaning of Schedule 2 to the Broadcasting Act 1990) with an existing licensee (i.e. as a “participant”)?

Yes

Licence number	Name of service or multiplex
CR000078	Bristol Community FM Ltd
CR000116	Ujima Radio CIC

- 3.19 Has the applicant made any other application to Ofcom (or its predecessor broadcast regulators – the Independent Television Commission and the Radio Authority) for any licence which has since been surrendered by the licensee or revoked by Ofcom (or one of its predecessor regulators)?

No

- 3.20 Is the applicant subject to any current or pending investigation by any statutory regulatory or government body in the United Kingdom or abroad in respect of any broadcast-related matter?

No

- 3.21 Has the applicant – or any person(s) controlling the applicant – ever been subject to a statutory sanction for contravening a condition of a broadcasting licence in the UK or any other jurisdiction?

Yes

If yes, please provide the following details relating to each sanction expanding the table if necessary:

Licence number (or equivalent)	Name of service or multiplex	Nature of the breach	Sanction imposed	Date sanction imposed
CR000116	Ujima	Sanctioned for not returning financial return in time.	£500 fine	20th August 2020

- 3.22 In relation to any of the directors, shareholders or other individuals named in this application, please provide any information which you think may be a relevant consideration for Ofcom in determining whether or not the applicant is fit and proper to hold a Broadcasting Act licence.

If you have no information to provide, please respond "N/A".

N/A

- 3.23 Has the applicant – or any person(s) controlling the applicant – ever been convicted of an unlicensed broadcasting offence?

No

Financial and business plan

- 3.24 Explain how the applicant considers it will be able to establish its proposed service. This should include an explanation of the costs required to establish the multiplex service, and how these costs will be met:

Bristol Digital Radio CIC is owned by three local community radio groups - Bristol Community fm Ltd, Ujima Radio CIC and Bradley Stoke Radio Ltd - who believe that the primary aim for small-scale multiplexes is to enable affordable access to digital radio for local radio stations that provide public good. By forming a CIC we're in a better position to control our own destiny and ensure our local radio stations are on digital radio in perpetuity. Our approach has the support of Bristol's elected mayor, Marvin Rees.

Bristol Digital Radio CIC is a not-for-profit organisation that will distribute the surpluses from trading spare capacity on the multiplex back into the community, as dictated by its articles of association.

The members of the board bring considerable experience of broadcasting in Bristol, strong links across the community, and experience in commercial digital radio, having been involved in commercial multiplexes and digital radio stations.

As none of the community groups have significant DAB multiplex management experience, we have approached long-term Bristolian Nick Piggott, who has been the de-facto manager of the Bristol Small Scale DAB trial and has significant DAB multiplex build and operation experience through GWR Group / GCap Media and World DAB, to help. In 2020, Nick created MuxNet UK Ltd with fellow DAB experts Gregory Watson and Matt Deegan. and MuxNet will manage the multiplex on a day to day basis under a management contract.

Transmission Plan

Our proposal is to build three transmission sites:

- one site is co-shared with KTCR (Keynsham Town Community Radio)
- one is a tower office block in Clifton
- one is at a local shopping centre in Knowle

We have not proposed complex antenna configurations that would require expensive mounting or site establishment, and operating costs will be modest. In all cases, baseline infrastructure (power, connectivity, equipment space and mounting surfaces) is already present and offered to us to use. We will use commercially available transmission equipment from reputable suppliers and have made provision for a modulator, power amplifier, GPS synchronisation, filtering, feeder cable, mast, antenna, computing and networking equipment, UPS power and housings for each site.

We will locate the multiplexing equipment at the Clifton site, with a 'hot backup' multiplexer at the Knowle site and a similar backup at Muxnet's Network Operations Centre (for telemetry), thus reducing 'cloud' costs for multiplexing. We have verified that affordable SME quality IP connectivity is available at each site, which we will supplement with 4G backup.

There is provision for usual site establishment costs relating to legal agreements and insurance.

Multiplex Management

BDR has contracted with MuxNet UK to project manage the application, and if successful, oversee the build of the multiplex and transmitter network, liaise with Ofcom and service providers in the period to launch (including contract negotiations), and oversee day to day multiplex management ongoing.

MuxNet will also represent our spare capacity to the broader radio marketplace, and will receive a monthly management fee from the launch of the multiplex and a profit-related bonus. This relationship guarantees us revenue to operate the multiplex whilst retaining ownership of the licence and transmission infrastructure.

Service Providers

BDR has a business model that meets the aspirations of community radio and the desires of commercial radio, and with a cost efficient tariff structure that offers discounts for local radio services. We have informed potential service providers of our proposed ratecard. At the date of application, 8 community or local stations are already signed up to the multiplex, with interest from 15 commercial stations, details of which are provided in part B. We will continue to promote opportunities on the multiplex.

In addition to full time services, BDR will also welcome short term 'pop-up' services.

On the basis of the level of identified interest, we are confident that carriage fee income will more than cover ongoing operating costs.

Sources of Funding

BDR has identified a total funding requirement of £40,000 to establish the multiplex. This includes capital expenditure for transmission equipment of £35,000, and £5,000 for administration costs and to provide working capital at launch. Our administration costs will be low as contract negotiation etc. will be managed by MuxNet UK.

BDR intends to apply for grant funding for c. 50% of the capital expenditure (which could be up to £17,000). Identified sources include the National Lottery Community Fund, Bristol Impact Fund and Arts Council England.

MuxNet UK has confirmed it will (at least) match-fund the grant and provide all required funding necessary to establish and operate the multiplex. This will be in the form of an interest free loan which will be repaid from the operational surplus.

Muxnet's experience working with new entrants and radio groups on local multiplexes encourages us that we can fund much of the multiplex from these types of stations.

- 3.25 Detail the sources of finance that will be used to fund the multiplex service, under the following headings:

a) Share capital	£100
b) Loan stock	£0
c) Leasing/HP facilities (capital value)	£0
d) Bank overdraft BDR will operate a bank account, but does not propose to use overdraft or loan facilities.	£0
e) Grants and donations	£17,000
f) Other (please specify) - Loan funding by MuxNet UK	£23,000 (minimum)
Total	£40,100

- 3.26 Provide evidence that sufficient funds are available to each investing shareholder to cover their proposed investment. For incorporated investing shareholders, provide a copy of the most recent statutory accounts.

✂ This information has been redacted by Ofcom for reasons of confidentiality

- 3.27 All of the funding identified above should be confirmed. If any funding has not been confirmed, or if there are any pre-conditions before the funding is released which have not yet been met, provide an explanation of what needs to be done, the dates by which it needs to be carried out, and any steps the applicant needs to take to ensure the funding is confirmed and/or released.

Grant funding is subject to applications.

Where grant funding is not available, any shortfall will be met by Muxnet UK. Funding from Muxnet UK Limited is confirmed.

Relevant expertise and experience

- 3.28 Please provide details of who will be responsible for the day-to-day general management of the multiplex service (for example, dealing with programme service providers and contractual matters). Please also briefly state their previous relevant experience. (Note that any individuals or contractors who cannot be identified at this stage can instead be included in the confidential section (Part B) of the application form.)

Bristol Digital Radio CIC has signed a multiplex management agreement with Muxnet UK to handle all operational aspects of the multiplex, including representing our spare capacity to the wider industry

Muxnet UK's directors are Nick Piggott, Gregory Watson and Matt Deegan. All three have extensive experience of all aspects of DAB Digital Radio. Nick has been actively involved with the Small Scale DAB trials in several locations, as well as many years of contributing to the Open Digital Radio project, and has decades of technical experience of DAB Digital Radio, sitting on the Technical Committee of WorldDAB and contributing to the creation of technical standards and guidance papers. Gregory Watson has a deep experience of regulatory and business affairs, and has interests in other multiplex operating companies. Matt Deegan has been involved with strategic and commercial development of digital radio for many years, and leads on commercial opportunities.

Nick and MuxNet have worked to deliver a multiplexing and transmission solution that is good value, reliable and supported. The team has experience in a whole range of multiplex executions and we're confident they've created the best one for the company. MuxNet's principals also have significant experience in contracting for capacity with radio groups at a local and national level, this makes them the perfect people to represent our surplus capacity and to deliver on the company's business plan.

Muxnet UK will provide continuous technical support, support for service providers, manage legal and contractual compliance, and will sell spare capacity on the multiplex on behalf of Bristol Digital Radio CIC. Muxnet UK will contract any required specialist skills or resources to build, install and maintain the transmission equipment, and will take on responsibility for technical compliance.

- 3.29 Please provide details of who will be carrying out the installation and on-going maintenance of your multiplexing / transmitter equipment (or the name of your proposed transmission and multiplex provider if you intend to use a third-party organisation for these services). Please also briefly state their previous relevant experience. (Note that any individuals or contractors who cannot be identified at this stage can instead be included in the confidential section (Part B) of the application form.)

Function	Responsible party	Previous experience
Installation of transmission equipment	Muxnet UK Ltd	Small Scale DAB Trials, Local DAB multiplexes
Ongoing maintenance of the transmission equipment	Muxnet UK Ltd	Small Scale DAB Trials, Local DAB multiplexes
Installation of the Multiplexing equipment	Muxnet UK Ltd	Small Scale DAB Trials, Local DAB multiplexes
Day-to-day technical management and maintenance of the multiplexing equipment (if different from response to question 3.28 above)		

Timetable for coverage roll-out

- 3.30 In no more than 250 words, please tell us how soon after licence award you expect your multiplex service to become operational and achieve the coverage you are proposing. Please provide an outline project plan with timeline (e.g. a Gantt chart or similar) showing the high level activities and tasks leading up to the launch of your multiplex service:

We expect to be able to commission all three sites, representing all the planned coverage, 7 months after award.

We have allowed a large proportion of this time for technical liaison and clearance processes, recognising that there are a large number of small scale DAB sites in this first round, and we will be amongst the first groups to put this into practice.

In parallel to the technical track, we will be securing grant funding for capital equipment, and getting committed contracts from service providers.

We do not expect the legal process involved with securing site access to be significant in comparison to these other activities. We also expect suppliers to be able to supply stock items relatively quickly after purchase orders are submitted.

A Gantt chart of key project tasks is attached as APPENDIX 7

4. Involvement of C-DSP providers; demand or support from programme providers

About this section

Section 51(2)(ca) of the 1996 Act requires Ofcom to take into account the desirability of awarding a small-scale radio multiplex licence to a body corporate that is providing – or proposing to provide – a C-DSP service in the locality being advertised (or involving such a person as a participant in the licence-holding company).

Section 51(2)(f) of the 1996 Act requires Ofcom to take into account evidence that the applicant has support from providers interested in having their existing or planned programme services carried on the proposed multiplex.

Note that we do not require applicants to provide us with a full-line up of services they intend to provide, or details about the content of those services.

Involvement of C-DSP providers

- 4.1 Is the applicant body proposing to provide its own C-DSP service on the multiplex?

NO

- 4.2 If the answer to the above question is 'yes', please provide a name and brief details of this proposed service. If the service is already licensed by Ofcom, the licence number should be provided:

- 4.3 If the answer to the above question is 'no', please provide details of any participant in the applicant body that is proposing to provide a C-DSP service on the multiplex. If the service is already licensed by Ofcom, the licence number should be provided:

Ujima Radio CIC providing "Ujima Radio" (CR000116)
Bristol Community fm Limited providing "Bcfm" (CR000078)

Demand or support from programme providers

- 4.4 Please provide any evidence which has been gathered of support for the provision of the proposed multiplex service among providers or prospective providers of community or local digital sound programme services in the area to be served by the multiplex service:

Our application is made by a consortium of analogue community radio licence holders in the Bristol area, demonstrating our interest in and commitment to providing digital radio services to Bristol. We have offered carriage for C-DSP services at a token cost of £1 / year, but we have also defined a discounted access tier for “local” services which originate from and are primarily focused on the Bristol area.

As the group who have led the Bristol Small Scale DAB Trial, we have offered access to the locally based participants in the trial so that they can stay on-air.

Almost all the current analogue community broadcasters in the area have agreed to provide their services to the multiplex: Ujima Radio, BCFM, Bradley Stoke Radio, KTCR and Somer Valley Radio. SWU.FM have been contacted several times and have expressed interest but did not confirm prior to the application deadline.

Our application has prompted BURST, the student radio station of Bristol University to apply for a C-DSP licence to broadcast permanently for the first time to their student population, and an existing online community service, Base Radio, based at the Filwood Centre and serving South Bristol, will also apply for a C-DSP licence. These become our first two DAB only community radio services.

We’re also pleased to bring innovative experimental music station, NOODS Radio, onto digital radio. NOODS are based in Stokes Croft, are a successful streaming service and a participant in the Bristol trial.

Our lineup of 8 locally based, locally focused and diverse radio services will represent a significant proportion of the services on the multiplex.

Details of our proposed services, as well as discussions with prospective programme service providers, are attached in Appendix 9.

5. Fair and effective competition

About this section

Section 51(2)(g) of the 1996 Act requires Ofcom to assess whether, in contracting or offering to contract with programme service providers, the applicant has acted in a manner calculated to ensure fair and effective competition in the provision of community and local digital sound programme services.

In assessing applications, we need to have confidence that the prospective small-scale radio multiplex licensee has approached a wide range of potential service providers. Negotiations that have taken place between the applicant and potential service providers need to have been demonstrably fair, and the terms of any contract for service provision must be fair and non-discriminatory.

Applicants should note there are two further questions relating to fair and effective competition in Part B of the application form.

- 5.1 Please detail the measures that have already been taken, and will be taken before and during the licence period, to demonstrate that, in contracting or offering to contract with programme services providers, the applicant has acted in a manner calculated to ensure fair and effective competition in the provision of such services:

Bristol Digital Radio CIC has been involved with the operation of the Bristol Trial Multiplex since its inception, and has contacted the existing trial service providers to offer carriage, as well as potential new service providers.

We have created and maintain a register of requests for capacity for services, and those requests are assessed equally on a 'first-come, first-served' basis. We will ask potential service providers to confirm their request every 6 months to protect their position in the queue.

We have published a tiered rate card and a standard carriage agreement, which will be made available on our website at bristoldigitalradio.org. Our tiered rate card has defined a class of 'Local' radio service, and that tier will be offered to any qualifying service provider, subject to capacity limits.

We have provided a copy of our standard carriage agreement for all service providers.

6. Declaration

About this section

This form must be submitted by the body corporate which will hold the licence. The declaration must be certified by a company director or the company secretary, and covers all information provided by the applicant in both Part A and Part B of the application form. The declaration must also be dated.

- a) I hereby apply to Ofcom for the grant of a licence for the small-scale radio multiplex licence described above and declare that the information given in this application form is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, correct.
- b) I further declare and warrant:
 - i) that the applicant is not a disqualified person within the meaning of that expression as defined in Part 2 of Schedule 2 to the Broadcasting Act 1990, as amended, or as a result of a disqualification order under section 145 of the Broadcasting Act 1996;
 - ii) that having made all reasonable enquiries neither the applicant nor any person controlling the applicant, as result of the grant to me of the licence, breach any requirement of Schedule 14 to the Communications Act 2003 with regard to the accumulation of interests in broadcasting services or to the restrictions on cross-media interests;
 - iii) that the applicant is not disqualified by virtue of the provisions of section 143 (5) of the Broadcasting Act 1996 in relation to political objects and the provisions of section 144 (3) of the Broadcasting Act 1996 in relation to the provision of false information or through the withholding of information with the intention of misleading Ofcom; and
 - iv) that no director or person concerned directly or indirectly in the management of the Licensee is the subject to a disqualification order as defined by section 145 (1) of the Broadcasting Act 1996.
- c) I understand that Ofcom reserves the right to revoke the licence (if granted) if at any time any material statement made to Ofcom is found to be false and to have been by the applicant or any member or officer thereof knowing it to be false. I also understand that under sections 144 and 145 of the Broadcasting Act 1996, the provision of false information could incur a criminal conviction and a disqualification from the holding of a Broadcasting Act licence. I further certify that, to the best of my knowledge, any matters which might influence Ofcom's judgement as to whether the directors and substantial shareholders involved in this application are fit and proper persons to participate in a radio licence, have been made known to Ofcom.

Full name (BLOCK CAPITALS) of the person authorised to make the application on behalf of the applicant:

NICHOLAS PIGGOTT

Date of application:

20th November 2020

I am authorised to make this application on behalf of the applicant in my capacity as (delete as appropriate):

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nick Piggott". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large 'N' and 'P'.

Company Director

You now need to complete the **confidential section (Part B)** of the application form.