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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NRSC ADOPTS IBOC DAB EVALUATION REPORTS, AGREES TO "PHASE 2" TEST PROGRAM

LAS VEGAS, NV – Sunday, April 9, 2000 - The National Radio Systems Committee's (NRSC's) DAB Subcommittee completed its "phase 1" evaluation of in-band/on-channel (IBOC) systems yesterday by adopting evaluation reports of the two proponent IBOC DAB systems, at its meeting held in conjunction with NAB2000. The reports conclude that the IBOC submissions analyzed by the NRSC demonstrate a "reasonable probability of substantial improvement for broadcast listening compared to current analog performance in the AM and FM broadcasting bands." This conclusion was reached on recommendation of the Subcommittee's Evaluation Working Group (EWG) which was tasked with the detailed analysis of the IBOC submissions given to the NRSC by USA Digital Radio, Inc., (USADR) and Lucent Digital Radio, Inc. (LDR) in December 1999 and January 2000, respectively.

The Subcommittee also unanimously agreed that it should begin a follow-on, "phase 2" test program in which proponents would submit their systems to the NRSC for common testing by an independent test facility. These tests would be conducted under NRSC supervision, allowing the Subcommittee to not only achieve its goal of IBOC/analog comparison, but to also allow for a system-to-system IBOC comparison, as well.

Proponents have a deadline of May 8, 2000 by which to respond to the NRSC stating that they will agree in principle to participate in a phase 2 test program conducted by the NRSC. Once that agreement is in place, detailed planning of the test program, including both laboratory and field testing elements, of both an objective and subjective nature, as well as selection of a test facility, would commence.

The full text of these reports will be available on the NRSC website (<u>http://www.nab.org/SciTech/nrsc.asp</u>) at the conclusion of NAB2000.

The National Association of Broadcasters serves and represents radio and television stations and all the major broadcast networks.

CEA is a sector of the Electronic Industries Alliance (EIA). CEA represents more than 600 U.S. companies involved in the development, manufacturing and distribution of audio, video, mobile electronics, communications, information technology, multimedia and accessory products, as well as related services, that are sold through consumer channels. Combined, these companies account for more than \$60 billion in annual sales.

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