

Last year has been remarkable for BBC broadcasting. A number of notable achievements and a number of very important decisions taken which will in some way set the pattern in the technical side of broadcasting for the next 20 years.

A. Achievements

(1) BBC-2 Coverage by the end of this year 70 per cent. 8 high-power ^{and 7 relays} stations in service - ^{* of these} 3 relay stations built this year - further six relays in service by end of year - work in hand for 9 or 10 high-power stations and corresponding relay stations next year.

* 7 relays now in service

(2) At the same time ¹⁵ VHF relay stations have been built - ^{most in} Stage IV of this in service - some start on Stage V - hope this will be the last stage. Coverage now 99 per cent.

** 5 since Sat 10 since this time last year.

(3) Start of Colour on July 1st. Achievements to date - number of hours per week in colour is now approximately 5. Results have been very good - success of staff training scheme - complex system introduced with absolute minimum of technical failures. Large programme of construction - negligible faults - training. Co-operation on colour outside our own field - helping Industry, exhibitions and so on. Trials various type of camera still in train.

5 mins

(4) Standards converter - Mark I - Designs Department - results obtained very good - Golf Match from Akron - widespread use all over the world - probable firm commitment to undertake Mexico City Olympic Games on this basis - Research Department working on more complex equipment - perhaps will be ready next year - Mark II.

2 mins

(5) 3 transmitters completed for Local Broadcasting - 3 more under construction.

Leicester Sheffield & Marseilles due to start November.

(6) Expansion of 1214 kHz for Popular Music Programme Network.

1 min

1 min (7) Completion of Ascension Island - service to West Africa - proposals for Singapore, etc.

(13)

3 min (8) Clarification of UHF Reception - from domestic view - conclusions of Report.

[Quote from UHF Report Summary]

Completed and overall reduction - staff

(16)
(17)

1 min 9

B. Basic Decisions

Basic decisions taken and their effects are as follows:

1 min

(1) Colour system - adaption of the PAL system ends the argument as to the choice of best system - now all energies can be properly channelled to make best use of PAL system.

(18)

and Redevelopment

(2) Duplication - changeover from 405 lines - the impossibility of getting channel space on X VHF left us with only UHF duplication as practicable. This now agreed and in force. Basic design of UHF network had allowed for this. Now we have to build transmitters for the duplicate service. ITA doing likewise.

(20)

8 min

Duplicate service should start February 1970 in colour, with ITA probably starting three months beforehand in duplicate black-and-white. No decision yet whether BBC will do likewise.

Duplicate service in colour to open simultaneously in London, Midlands and two Northern stations. After that some attempt to be made to keep two construction programmes in step but this very difficult and not ~~expected~~ ^{considered} as imperative. This programme means intensive work by Post Office to provide links and by BBC and ITA to provide transmitters. Construction of duplicate transmitters will be at the rate of 8 or 10 high-power stations a year.

(22)

It would be beyond the financial and the engineering capacity to maintain existing rate of BBC-2 construction and this level of duplication construction - agreed therefore that, after completion of present phase of BBC-2 end of next year, BBC-2 construction

will fall to about 3 stations a year. Result of this will be that around 1972/73 duplicate coverage will have caught up with BBC-2 coverage, and at this stage the coverage will be of the order of ^{65%} 81 per cent.

very approximate figure.

(24)

After 1972/73 stations will be built simultaneously for BBC-2 and duplicate BBC-1. Appears unlikely we could achieve full 100 per cent coverage on UHF before 1980 and possibly well on into 1980. After this has been achieved and some years have gone by 405-lines will close down. This might conceivably be in 1985, and re-engineering of the VHF bands ^{on 625 line for two additional services} will then take place.

This could take at least 5 years - 625-line only programmes would therefore be available in the U.K. perhaps by 1990, probably some years after this. The second millenium might see this. There is therefore a very long programme of transmitter work, no doubt including automatic operations and including use of solid-state devices.

(26)

- (3) Medium-Wave Broadcasting - in early '50s medium-wave broadcasting ^{a continuous service and perhaps was} seemed to be in some doubt as ₁ being on the way out. The advent of the transistor, the basic propagational advantages of medium waves, ~~and~~ even the pirates, and the advent of a new service on medium waves have given new life to these bands. Plans are already under consideration for a considerable revamp of medium-wave facilities, including ^{more} power, better aerials, directional aerials and more transmitters. Proposals now being worked out for completion in the short and also being worked out for completion at new Copenhagen Conference which could take place in 1970. Beyond doubt that ^{all} new facilities will be automatic.

(3) *3 months*

(29)

- (4) Local Broadcasting - local broadcasting starting with the trial of 9 stations will, if successful, lead to a requirement of perhaps 150 or 200 local stations - this requirement will increase the pressure to have available for broadcasting the whole of the frequency range of 100 MHz.

1 min

30

- (5) Stereophony - decision taken to extend stereo transmissions - consideration being given to put this in three of the networks and to extend it over the whole country. Approach made to Post Office by BBC to operate communication links. This being pushed very strongly for stereo so that we could perhaps also operate other links, including television links.

1 min

31

- (6) Satellites - programme relay - point-to-point - relay as Eurovision, ESRO, etc. Direct broadcasting - all under active consideration - not very likely this country but others.

1 min

32

- (7) PAY TV

Perhaps speak on this -
dependent on U.S.A. V.M.P.