

encouraging: recent European interest in the HD system, driven by disappointment over the penetration of the Eureka 147 system in the U.K. and on the continent. But getting digital ink for HD at the agenda-setting Consumer Electronics Show won't be easy - especially with Steve Jobs planning some sort of Big Announcement at the MacWorld expo that's coming the week after CES. One of the rumors could be good for HD: a boom box with an iPod dock that uses HD technology - specifically, the iTunes "tagging" system. A push from Apple for the system that was announced in principle back during the September NAB Radio Show in Charlotte would certainly be great for iBiquity.

Sound Bites:

In Baton Rouge, Pamal sells talk WPYR (1380) to Michael Gliner. This station's gone through quite a bit of paperwork lately: In May 2006, WPYR was part of a multi-regional six-station swap between Clear Channel and Pamal. Clear Channel continued to run it and that part of the swap didn't close, but this latest deal should be the last one for a while, for WPYR. Gliner's paying Pamal \$350,000. Broker: Mike Bergner.

Clear Channel acquires a Sacramento FM move-in. That's KJDX at 93.3, currently doing country for seller Sierra Broadcasting. But a lot of things are going to change this year for KJDX: It's now a Class C (100-kw at 352 meters) licensed to Susanville, CA, but it's authorized to re-license to Pollock Pines, closer to Sacramento, and to downgrade to a Class A (2.05-kw at 175 meters). Clear Channel's paying Sierra \$2.75 million for the option to buy it from Spectrum Scan-Susanville, and the Exline Company gets the brokerage credits.

For \$17.5 million, NRG's got the front-door keys to five Triad stations serving Lincoln, NE. The just-closed deal was announced last Fall and it brings NRG Media these stations: country "Froggy 98.1" KFGE, hot AC "B107.3" KBBK, classic hits KLNC (105.3), news/talk KLIN (1400) and "Newsradio 1450" KWBE - plus Triad market manager Mark Halverson. David Benjamin's Triad ran these stations for eight years before selling. Broker: Kalil & Co.

XM will feature Latin Oldies on Channel 93, now dubbed "Caricia." It'll showcase oldies from the 60s, 70s and 80s, and it joins XM's three existing Spanish-language music channels: Regional Mexican Agulia, Latin pop hits Viva and tropical dance and reggaeton Caliente.

Consolidation in New Zealand, as MediaWorks buys five stations from Marlborough. Radio/TV owner MediaWorks adds stations in Blenheim, Picton and Kaikoura, in the beautiful nation that director Peter Jackson is making famous. Marlborough Media operates stations named "Sounds FM" in all three cities, and "Easy FM" in Blenheim and Picton.

Know any humanitarians? Or great radio promotions? CRB is searching for them now. The Radio Humanitarian Award (in large, medium and small markets) recognizes public service between November 1, 2006 and December 31, 2007. Entries are due January 28. While the "Radio Promotion Award", again for large, medium and small markets, is just what you'd think it is. Entries are due very soon (January 11), and there's more info about both competitions at www.CRB.org, the Country Radio Broadcasters site. Winners will be announced at the Country Radio Seminar in Nashville, March 5-7.

Buzzing on the Radio-Info Message Boards -

Boston getting more local talk, on WRKO? A new poster believes big changes are coming to the daytime lineup at the Entercom station. **Discussion**

How much country radio is too much in Wichita Five, maybe? #5 is about to