

# entertainment network (India) limited

Corporate Office: 14<sup>th</sup> Floor, Trade World, D-Wing, Kamala Mills Compound, Senapati Bapat Marg,  
Lower Parel (West), Mumbai – 400 013, India. Tel: 022 6753 6983.

## Via Email

March 23, 2023

To,

**Shri Anil Kumar Bhardwaj**

Advisor (B&CS)

**Telecom Regulatory Authority of India**

Mahanagar Doorsanchar Bhawan

Jawaharlal Nehru Marg,

New Delhi-110 002

Email: [advbcs-2@traf.gov.in](mailto:advbcs-2@traf.gov.in) and [jtadvbcs-2@traf.gov.in](mailto:jtadvbcs-2@traf.gov.in)

**Sub: Counter comments regarding the submissions made on the Consultation Paper on “Issue related to FM Radio Broadcasting” (hereinafter referred as ‘CP’ for brevity)**

Dear Mr. Bhardwaj,

At the outset, we, Entertainment Network (India) Limited (**‘We’/ ‘ENIL’**), would like to thank your good offices for providing us an opportunity to put forth our counter views to the submissions made by various stakeholders. This gives us a chance to further clarify the rationale behind our primary submissions.

Having reviewed submissions by various stakeholders and individual submissions, we feel that there is overwhelming and overarching unanimity of opinion on simplification of Annual License Fee (**ALF**) calculation by de-linking of NOTEF from the ALF calculation formula, extension of current License period by 3 year and grant of permission for new broadcast, subject to reasonable monitoring.

However, there are few contentions in some of the submissions, to which we wish to respectfully put down our counter views as given below:

**1. At the foremost we deal objections by few stakeholders viz. MAIT, ICEA, NCHSE and Clear Media - on the issue of making FM functionality mandatory in all smartphones:**

Gist of major objections that we observed against enabling FM functionality in smartphones is as follows:

- i. Increases cost of the device, not preferred by consumers, else manufacturers, OEMs, mobile operators would all have responded to the demand.

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- ii. No space to add antenna in the new phones. Other features may be more valuable for customers than radio.
- iii. Design decision to be left to market.
- iv. Hampers 'ease-of-doing business' for mobile manufacturers.

## ENIL Response:

- a. At the outset, it is pertinent to note that **no supporting data whatsoever is presented in any of the submissions** to substantiate the aforesaid objections, particularly as regards consumer preference for having FM functionality in their mobiles and the **same are based on mere hypothesis**.
- b. One of the major objection raised by MAIT and ICEA is that such mandate will increase device cost and will require additional internal antenna.

The consultation paper quotes ICEA themselves saying – “Mobile phones had adopted FM as an integral part of the “Feature” phones, since most of the chipsets for feature phones supports FM transmission” (emphasis supplied).

They also quote that any wired headset can act as an antenna for FM reception. They contend that due to removal of 3.5mm jack where the wired headsets used to be plugged in are no more available and internal antenna increases the cost of the devices.

It's a fact known to all that, **even in absence of the 3.5mm jack, wired headsets can be still plugged in to the charging points on any android smartphone through a C-type add-on connector/ or wired headsets with C-Type pins/ or even a charging wire (which nowadays can be separated from the adapters)! Since as per their own admission, the wired headset or wired speakers can act as antenna, there is no reason why these headsets with C-type connectors or simply the charging wires cannot act as an external antenna.** This fact also falsifies the arguments of requirement of design modifications or internal antenna required, which can increase the device cost.

Now the only question that remains is whether FM functionality is already in-built in smartphones but not turned on or it needs to be separately added to it. It's their own admission that in fact FM transmission is possible in almost all

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handsets. This is supported by plethora of material available online too. For e.g. <https://www.wired.com/2016/07/phones-fm-chips-radio-smartphone/> This article brings out the fact that virtually all phones including iPhone have FM function in-built on the chip sets along with Bluetooth and Wi-fi, only that they are turned off to support music apps. If they simply stop turning off the FM functionality which is already available and/or can be easily made available on the same chipset on which Bluetooth functionality is available, it will be simply left to consumer if they would like to access FM radio through wired headsets!

- c. We have annexed herewith as **Annexure A, a detailed article published by National Association of Broadcasters, Washington, DC, which can put to rest many of the objections raised by MAIT and ICEA.** Following are certain interesting data points and facts given in the paper:

The following chart gives details of the relative state of smartphones equipped and not equipped with FM radio reception capability in USA, based on the latest NAB Labs research:

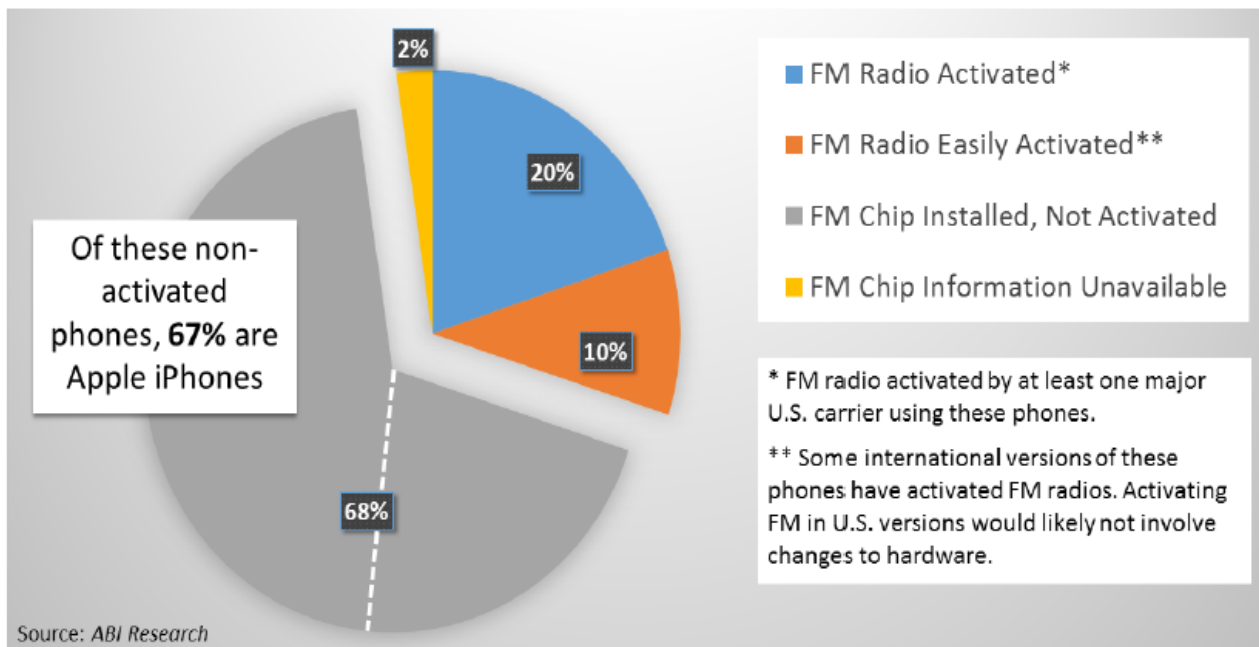


FIGURE 1: FM RADIO CAPABILITY OF U.S. TOP-SELLING SMARTPHONES (IN % OF TOTAL SOLD), JANUARY – SEPTEMBER 2014

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This chart shows that 98% mobiles in US already had activated or ready-to-be activated FM capabilities in-built.

Another important data point is on the consumer preferences, which is one of the objections raised in some of the submissions referred above. It quotes as given below:

*“The chart given below indicates the customer preference shows the U.S. sales of smartphones with FM reception capability activated by at least one U.S. carrier, quarterly over the most recent two-year period. Although as Figure 1 shows, only a minority of smartphones sold in the U.S. have such capability, Figure 2 indicates that **the trend is decidedly positive, countering the position taken by some in the wireless industry that consumers do not want FM capability in their devices.** Figure 2 also provides a dramatic illustration of “the Sprint effect,” given the boost in FM-enabled smartphone sales that coincides with the agreement between Sprint and broadcasters to broadly enable FM radio capability across their line of smartphone offerings” (Emphasis added)*

Figure 2 shows the U.S. sales of smartphones with FM reception capability activated by at least one U.S. carrier, quarterly over the most recent two-year period. Although as Figure 1 shows, only a minority of smartphones sold in the U.S. have such capability, Figure 2 indicates that the trend is decidedly positive, countering the position taken by some in

the wireless industry that consumers do not want FM capability in their devices. Figure 2 also provides a dramatic illustration of “the Sprint effect,” given the boost in FM-enabled smartphone sales that coincides with the agreement between Sprint and broadcasters to broadly enable FM radio capability across their line of smartphone offerings.

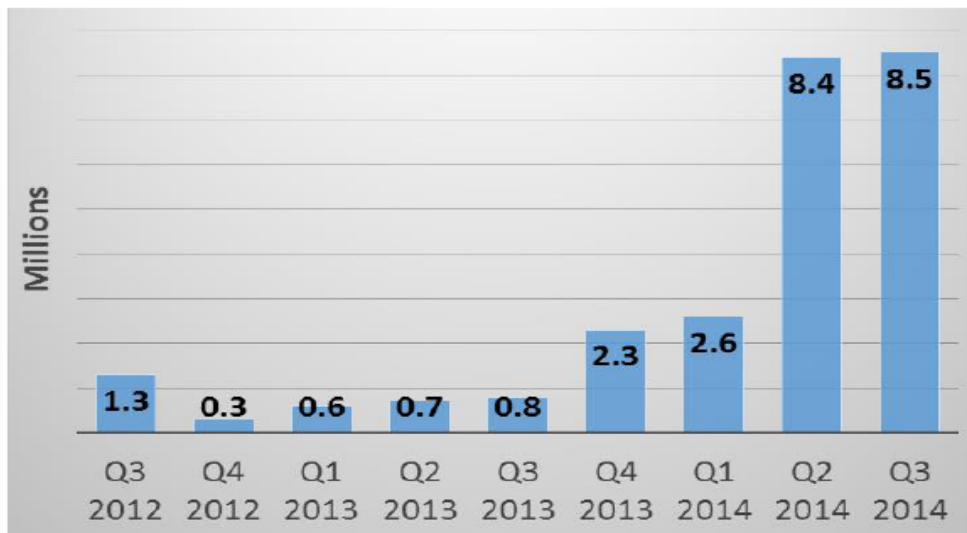


FIGURE 2: LATEST AVAILABLE DATA ON SMARTPHONES SOLD IN U.S. WITH FM RADIO ACTIVATED BY AT LEAST ONE U.S. WIRELESS CARRIER (SOURCES: STRATEGY ANALYTICS AND ABI RESEARCH)

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- d. It is alleged that the agenda is to prop up FM business which people are abandoning! This is completely counter-intuitive to the insights which we have quoted from the survey conducted by independent firm 'Toluna India' in key cities and towns between December 19, 2022 and January 2, 2023. It showed that in addition to Tier I cities, FM radio listenership in Tier-II and -III markets is on the rise. One of the key findings of the survey is that working professionals are big consumers of FM radio, with nine out of 10 such respondents saying that they regularly listen to the radio. As much as two-thirds of the students surveyed also claimed to be regular radio listeners.

This clarifies that the issue is not of the liking of the consumers and demand for FM Radio but its access, which is currently majorly restricted to cars, since very few households have a separate FM receiver sets. Hence the aforesaid allegation against the motive of FM radio industry is completely baseless and devoid of reason or supporting data.

- e. The utility of FM radios in times of calamities and disaster situations has been substantiated in great detail in our primary submissions along with relevant data points. There are glaring examples worldwide as mentioned therein, where FM radio has proven to be invaluable, robust and most dependable medium in face of emergencies. Re-iterating the quote **"This is a no-brainer in terms of public safety," by Michael McEwan, director of the North American Broadcasters Association, or NABA, which drafted the opinion the ITU adopted, speaks volumes of the utility of radio in such situations.**

We have even witnessed the way private FM radio broadcasters were of immense help during the COVID 19 pandemic, in not only spreading awareness and cautions but also connecting with people, entertaining them and keeping them hopeful in grim situation by way of live and close interactions with the listeners.

Thus, the utility of FM radio in difficult times can hardly be undermined and in fact, it is the single most important reason for issuing the mandate to make it mandatory in all mobiles, as there is nothing paramount than public interest and safety. There cannot be a compromise on the possibility of greater safety of public for 'ease of doing business', which also in our honest opinion, an unsubstantiated assumption.

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There has also been an attempt to discredit the international examples given in our submissions regarding Mexico and Brazil, where the governments have in fact made it mandatory for mobiles to have FM functionality, giving importance to public interest. The reference sites given in support of the contentions by MAIT and ICEA as non-accessible when we tried to view the same and thus there is no reason to disregard these international precedents. In fact the submissions from Xperi Inc. which is an US based organization, has also quoted the international precedent of Mexico particularly and highlighted the criticality of this medium in emergency situations.

- f. Further there are other objections raised like:
- No one would carry a headset in disaster area - This is a pure hypothetical and speculative assumption which does not merit any consideration and
  - Presence of FM chip does not ensure that the customer will be tuned into a station broadcasting danger announcement - It is a no-brainer that such type of announcements are never given exclusively to one broadcaster but are simultaneously broadcasted on all channels and across medium, at same time or at least at such intervals that it reaches maximum people.

## **2. Submissions relating to de-linking of NOTEF from the formula for calculation of ALF:**

We have observed an overwhelming consensus on this issue in support of de-linking of NOTEF from the ALF, even from the US based Xperi Inc. Only one stakeholder has opined that ALF is fine as it is. However, since that stakeholder is not a broadcaster and therefore presumably not well-versed with the issue (as there are no supporting data/calculation or rationale given), the view has no merit in our humble opinion. Hence we pray that the de-linking should happen at the earliest.

## **3. Submissions on extension of license period –**

We observe that again there is a clear consensus in all submissions that there is a need to grant extension of the current license period by at least 3 years to

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help the FM broadcasters to get over the COVID 19 impact, considering the time required for them to at least bring their revenues to pre-COVID levels, if not higher. We observe that NCHSE and Clear Media, have recommended 2 years extension of license period, which in our opinion undermines the financial impact on the broadcasters, which can be clearly deduced from the extensive data points and charts as well as market surveys quoted in our primary submissions. Hence we pray for strong recommendations from your good offices for extension of at least 3 years considering the available data and recovery forecasts detailed in our submissions.

4. Lastly, though not an issue consulted upon in the paper, we also note that in the submissions of Clear Media, there is a suggestion under 5<sup>th</sup> issue (any other suggestions) that similar to Community Radio Stations (CRS), there should be a cap on advertisement time per hour for private FM players too.

There is no rationale whatsoever in doing so. The basic objective of CRS is completely different i.e. catering to a specific community and ads are permitted solely for meeting their operational requirements. Also the license fees, infrastructure costs, music royalties etc. are way higher than those applicable to CRS. Hence to suggest capping of ad time for private FM broadcasters is a completely misplaced suggestion.

We once again thank you for the opportunity provided by your good offices to put forth our counter views and suggestions on the subject and hope that they shall be given due consideration.

Sincerely,

**For Entertainment Network (India) Limited**



**Prashant Ramdas**  
**Vice President & Head-Legal**

**Annexure 1:** Article by Skip Pizzi and Stephanie Christel -National Association of Broadcasters Washington, DC

## Annexure A

# FM Radio in Smartphones: A Look Under the Hood

Skip Pizzi and Stephanie Christel

National Association of Broadcasters  
Washington, DC

**Abstract** - *The number of Smartphones sold in the U.S. that are equipped with FM radio receivers is increasing, but the devil is in the details. While virtually all smartphones have an FM receiver chip on board today, only some of them have FM reception fully enabled. There are also some smartphone models in which FM reception is enabled in other countries but not the U.S., and even some models in which FM is enabled by one or more U.S. carrier(s) but not others. In some of the latter cases, a software update or app download is all that is required to enable FM reception. This paper presents data on current penetration of smartphones in the U.S., with NAB Labs' analysis of these phones' FM reception capability or "readiness." The paper also presents findings of smartphone teardown analysis, detailing the actual communications chips and software used by popular smartphones.*

### INTRODUCTION

For many Americans, the smartphone is a vital piece of everyday technology. But many smartphones in the United States are missing a feature that exists more widely elsewhere, and

that would have positive value for American consumers, wireless carriers, and broadcasters. This missing component in many U.S. smartphones is a fully enabled FM radio receiver.

Some may question how all three of the nonaligned sectors mentioned above can benefit from what is considered a mature or relatively "low-tech" smartphone feature. For consumers, the advantages are numerous:

- Listening to FM radio provides as much as a six-fold battery life extension over online streaming audio services. [1]
- FM radio listening has no impact on users' data plans, whereas streaming 2 hours of online radio services per day can use over 3.5 gigabytes (GB) of data each month. [2]
- Terrestrial radio offers consumers instant audio access at the push of a single button, as well as robust service nationwide, with emergency alerting and other critical information delivered in a timely and dependable fashion.

Benefits also extend to wireless carriers, which via customers' usage of FM receivers



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can offload redundantly provided streaming data, thereby conserving valuable bandwidth for other uses. FM radio in smartphones also

provides carriers with more emergency alerting options at no incremental cost to the carrier. Wireless carriers—along with radio stations—can also benefit from new revenues derived from *hybrid radio* services.

For broadcasters the benefits are obvious. Over-the-air (OTA) radio services will return to handheld mobile platforms—an area from which broadcasters have largely been absent since the transistor radio and the Walkman®.

Although this marriage of mobile and OTA would seem to be a general benefit, challenges to its broad acceptance arise from smartphone manufacturers, wireless carriers, and lack of consumer awareness. While the availability of FMcapable smartphones sold in the United States has increased over the last several years, most U.S. smartphones are still unable to play FM radio, though virtually all of them possess the FM receiver chip that could provide this capability [3]. This paper will analyze the current state of FM radio reception capability in

smartphones, discuss the variations in deployment of these systems (both domestically and internationally), take a deeper look at the hardware used for FM receivers in smartphones, and propose next steps that 1 broadcasters can take to promote greater accessibility of FM radio in U.S. smartphones.

## U.S. SALES DATA

To provide some context, the following data indicates the relative state of smartphones equipped and not equipped with FM radio reception capability, based on the latest NAB Labs research.

Figure 1 shows the breakdown of this capability among the top-selling<sup>1</sup> smartphones in the U.S. during the first three quarters of 2014 (the latest period for which data is currently available). It indicates that approximately 1 in 5 smartphones sold during this period had FM reception capability enabled out of the box by at least one U.S. carrier, and another 1 in 10 had the capability installed—and operating in other regions—but disabled by the U.S. carrier. It also shows that approximately 2 in 3 phones have FM receiver hardware on board, but it is not utilized by the manufacturer, and that among those phones, 2 out of every 3 are Apple *iPhones*.

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<sup>1</sup> NAB Labs analyzes the top 70% of smartphone models by sales volume in each calendar quarter. This usually equates to 20-25 products. The distribution of smartphones by product has a highly “long-tail” characteristic. Page 9 of 19

Beyond these top sellers, individual market shares of remaining products are each negligibly small, and therefore are not worthy of analysis, since results would not significantly change data trends shown.

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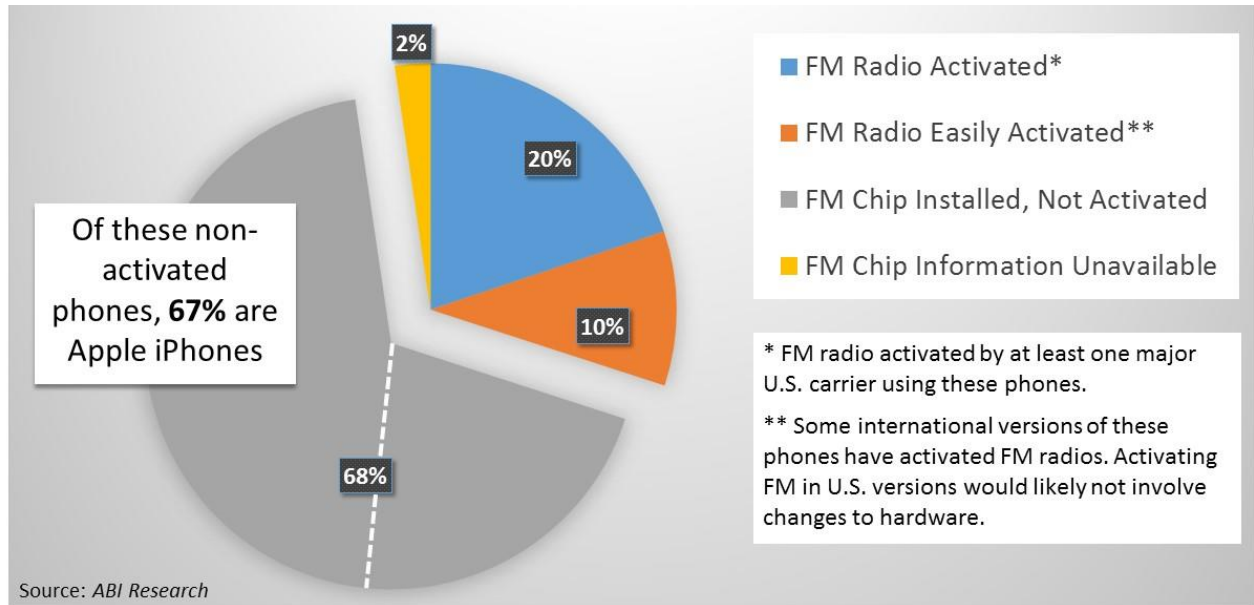


FIGURE 1: FM RADIO CAPABILITY OF U.S. TOP-SELLING SMARTPHONES (IN % OF TOTAL SOLD), JANUARY – SEPTEMBER 2014

Figure 2 shows the U.S. sales of smartphones with FM reception capability activated by at least one U.S. carrier, quarterly over the most recent two-year period. Although as Figure 1 shows, only a minority of smartphones sold in the U.S. have such capability, Figure 2 indicates that the trend is decidedly positive, countering the position taken by some in

the wireless industry that consumers do not want FM capability in their devices. Figure 2 also provides a dramatic illustration of “the Sprint effect,” given the boost in FM-enabled smartphone sales that coincides with the agreement between Sprint and broadcasters to broadly enable FM radio capability across their line of smartphone offerings.

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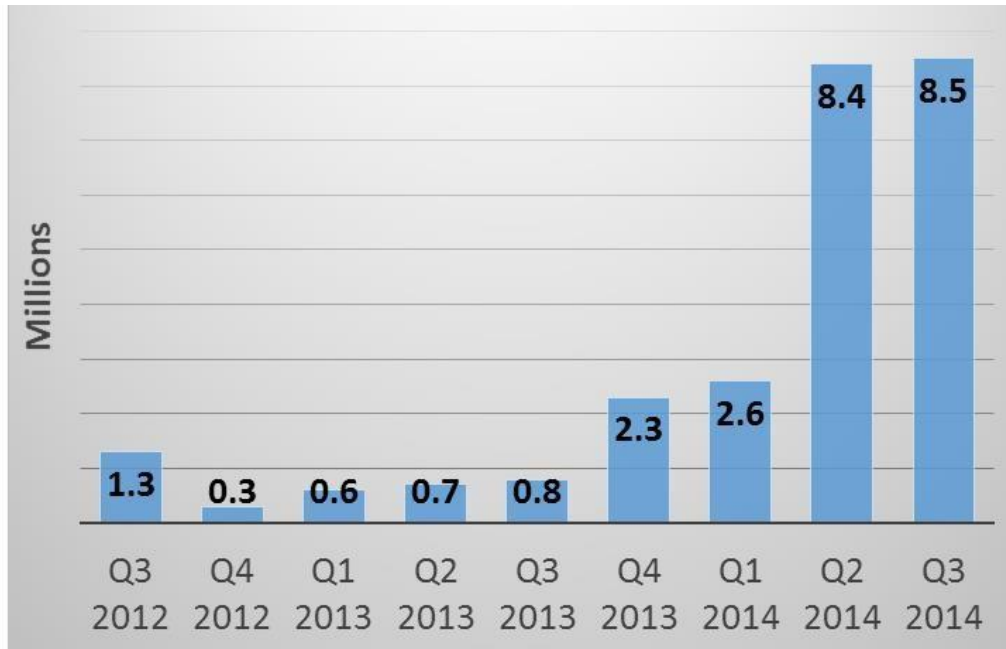


FIGURE 2: LATEST AVAILABLE DATA ON SMARTPHONES SOLD IN U.S. WITH FM RADIO ACTIVATED BY AT LEAST ONE U.S. WIRELESS CARRIER (SOURCES: STRATEGY ANALYTICS AND ABI RESEARCH)

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## A HIERARCHY OF IMPLEMENTATIONS

While virtually all smartphones sold in the United States are equipped with FM receiver hardware, or an “FM chip,” nuanced differences separate those phones capable of playing FM radio directly out of the box from those that cannot. Our analysis has generated a classification hierarchy of such capabilities, which is presented below. Each successive class encompasses the characteristics of the classes beneath it.

### ***I. Class 1: FM Receiver Hardware on Board***

Class 1 smartphones are equipped with FM receiver hardware, but are not equipped to utilize this hardware for FM reception by the user. Converting this class of smartphone to enable FM radio reception is generally not possible by the user.

### ***II. Class 2: FM Receiver Hardware on Board and Connected***

Class 2 smartphones are characterized by operative FM receiver hardware. In these cases the “FM chip” is enabled, with the receiver’s RF input connected to an embedded antenna or an antenna connector (i.e., headphone jack),

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and the FM receiver's demodulated output is connected to the phone's multimedia processing (feeding it analog stereo audio and, in some cases, RDS text data).

While FM radio reception is hypothetically possible on these devices, in Class 2 smartphones either the phone manufacturer or the wireless carrier chooses to not expose this capability to the end user. This implies that some necessary part(s) of the software stack on the phone is purposefully omitted (e.g., an FM tuner-control user interface [UI]), such that the user is unaware and/or unable to utilize the FM receiver capability provided on the phone.

In a few cases, the missing software elements can be downloaded by the user, and the FM capability is then enabled. An example of this is the HTC *One M8* as provided by Verizon Wireless, in which the otherwise functional FM receiver has no associated user interface ("app") preloaded; thus the FM reception capability of the phone is disabled, and the user is unaware that the phone has such capability. All other required software for FM reception is included in the phone, however (as it is on all versions of this phone worldwide, including as delivered by other U.S. wireless carriers), so if the consumer downloads the *NextRadio* app (see below) from an Android store and installs it on the phone, the FM receiver on the phone will be fully enabled. Of course, the user would have to be somehow advised that this process was possible.

In other cases, the manufacturer can provide a software update to existing phones that enables FM reception capability that was not possible on the phone as delivered out-of-the-box. An example of this is the Nokia *Lumia*

520/820/920 smartphone line, which was originally shipped without FM receiver capability enabled, but an update to the Windows Phone 8 operating system used on the phones subsequently added the feature.

### **III. Class 3: UI Exposed**

In Class 3 phones, a UI controlling the FM receiver is exposed, meaning that consumers have access to a native FM radio application directly from the box. The capability provides simple, conventional FM tuning and listening, in some cases with elements of a station's RDS data also presented on screen. FM hybrid capability is not enabled.

In some cases, these phones are capable of being upgraded to a Class 4 phone (see below) by the end user. An example of this is the HTC *One M8* as provided by AT&T Wireless. The phone is preloaded with a native, basic FM tuner control app, but the user can download the *NextRadio* app to add hybrid FM capability to the device.

### **IV. Class 4: Hybrid FM Enabled**

Class 4 smartphones have hybrid FM radio functionality enabled out of the box. In the U.S., at this writing, Sprint is the only carrier to offer this class of phones. Hybrid FM radio capability is enabled via preloading of the *NextRadio* app on these phones, which include a variety of Android devices. The hybrid radio feature allows audio to be transmitted to the phone via terrestrial FM radio, while enhancements and other information, such as album art and interactive advertisements, are received through the

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smartphone’s wireless data connection. Table 1 summarizes the classifications detailed above.

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Class	Description	Examples			(international)
1	FM receiver hardware (“FM chip”) onboard but not wired to function, and/or required software stack not installed	Apple iPhones; Samsung Galaxy S4; Samsung Galaxy S5 (AT&T, T-Mobile, Verizon)	4	FM chip onboard, connected, UI exposed, and hybrid FM software stack installed	HTC One M8 (Sprint); Samsung Galaxy S5 (Sprint)
2	FM chip onboard with RF input connected to antenna (typically headphone jack) and audio (and perhaps RDS data) output connected, but no UI exposed	HTC One M8 (Verizon)	<p><b>DIFFERENTIAL DEPLOYMENT</b></p> <p>As Table 1 shows, the deployment of these classifications of FM chips varies both on an international and national scale. While it is difficult to say exactly why differential deployment exists, the phenomenon has become more prominent over the last few years.</p> <p><i>1. U.S. vs. International Deployments</i></p> <p>Prior to the Sprint/NextRadio agreement, most popular smartphones sold in the U.S. did not come equipped with FM radio, whereas their international counterparts did include FM reception capability. For example, one of</p>		
3	FM chip onboard, connected, and FM user interface exposed	HTC One M8 (AT&T); Samsung Galaxy S3			

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the most popular phones of 2012, the Samsung *Galaxy S3*, is had its FM reception capability disabled in all units sold in the U.S., although elsewhere the phone's FM reception worked out of the box. Numerous top-selling LG smartphones also had their FM radios enabled internationally, but disabled in the U.S.

In cases such as these, it is possible to conclude that the reason FM radio capability was disabled in U.S. versions of the product resulted from an active choice by the wireless carrier or manufacturer to do so.

## *II. Differences Among U.S. Carriers*

More recently, in the wake of the Sprint/NextRadio deal, there has been a greater divergence in FM capability on the same phones provided by different wireless carriers *within the U.S.* A good example cited in the previous section is the Samsung *Galaxy S5*, which Sprint delivers as a Class 4 device, while other U.S. carriers deliver it as a Class 1 phone.

Another current example of differential deployment in the United States cited above is the HTC *One M8*. HTC enables FM reception capability in all versions of the phone worldwide, but in the U.S., Sprint delivers it as a Class 4 device, AT&T delivers it as a Class 3, and Verizon delivers it as a class 2. All versions are

user upgradable to Class 4, but in the case of Verizon, the product's user guide does not list FM radio as an available feature.

## *III. The Sprint Deal – Enabling Hybrid FM*

The landmark agreement in 2013 among radio broadcasters, *NextRadio* and Sprint has opened the door to broad deployment of FM hybrid radio, and made the inclusion of FM receivers more appealing to manufacturers and carriers.

### **A DEEPER DIVE**

#### *I. Teardowns – The “Connectivity Chip”*

Although we use the term “FM chip” to refer to FM receiver hardware in smartphones, this chip is actually one component, or a single “die,” on a larger, multifunction chip. Typically, FM capability is packaged on a chip or module that also provides Wi-Fi and Bluetooth capability, and is therefore often referred to as the “connectivity chip.” “Teardown analysis” looks at a device's hardware to identify functionality, estimate cost of materials, and evaluate other elements of the device's design. Figures 3 and 4 show the results of such teardowns in photos of one side of the circuit board of two smartphones with various components identified. Each of these phones use different connectivity chips, both of which include Wi-Fi, Bluetooth and FM reception capabilities.

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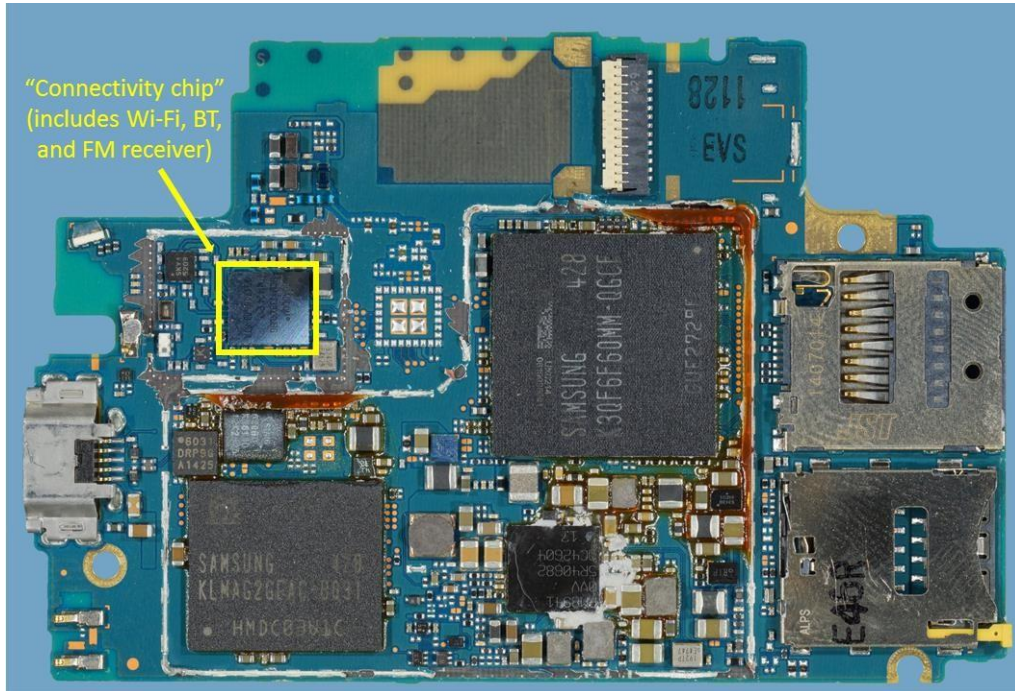


FIGURE 3 – SONY XPERIA Z3 CIRCUIT BOARD, SHOWING BROADCOM BCM 4339 “CONNECTIVITY CHIP” (COURTESY ABI RESEARCH)

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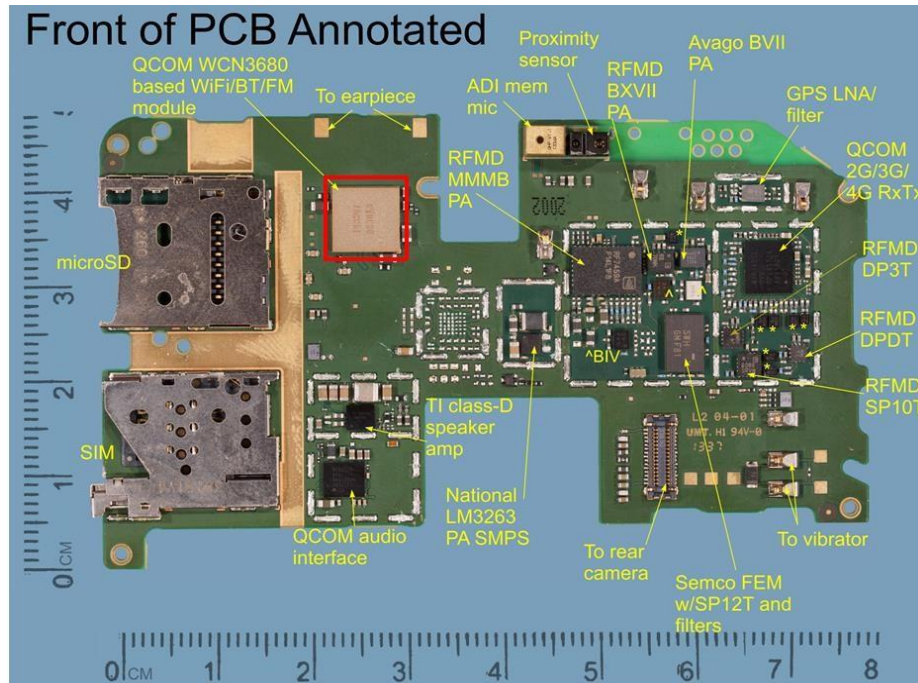


FIGURE 4 – NOKIA 1520 CIRCUIT BOARD, SHOWING QUALCOMM WCN 3680 “CONNECTIVITY CHIP” (IN RED BOX), WITH OTHER COMPONENTS IDENTIFIED AND RULERS SHOWING SCALE (COURTESY ABI RESEARCH)

Figure 5 shows an X-ray of a portion of a smartphone, again identifying various components. Even with such detailed analysis, however, in most cases it is virtually impossible to determine whether FM capability is enabled on a particular device purely by visual examination. Note the headphone jack in this photo, and in particular its numerous terminations and the many circuit board traces that lead to it.

The FM radio antenna connection can typically be among these, but an increasing variety of other devices—besides the headphone/microphone—also vie for use of this connector (e.g., credit card readers). Such competition for the limited real-estate and resources of a smartphone weighs into the decision for whether to include any particular feature—such as FM radio—on a given device.



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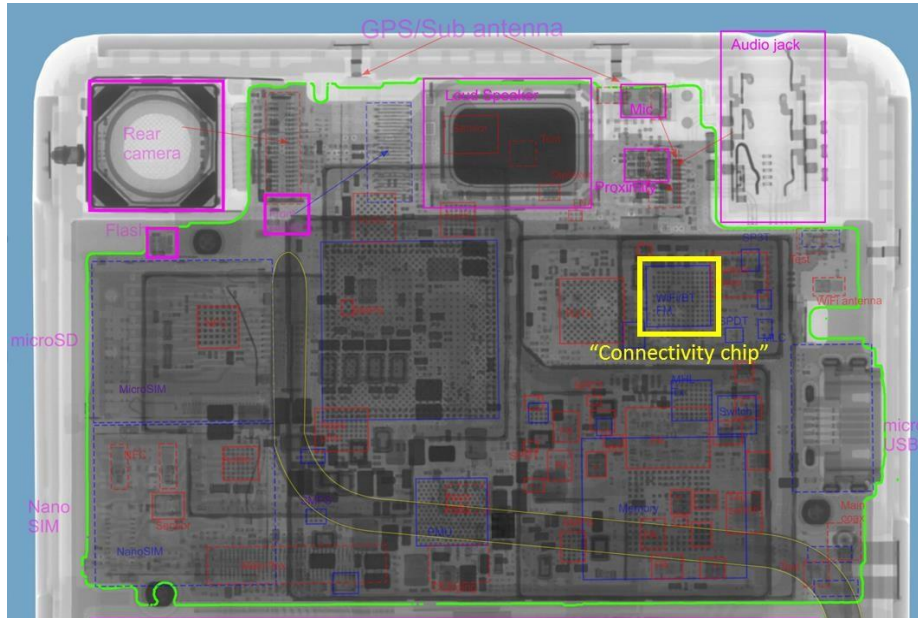


FIGURE 5 – X-RAY PHOTO DETAIL OF SONY XPERIA Z3, SHOWING “CONNECTIVITY CHIP” AND AUDIO JACK (COURTESY ABI RESEARCH)

Another factor in such decisions bears upon the fact that some manufacturers consider standard FM radio to be a “low-value” feature, and therefore may include it on their lower end devices but not their premium offerings. For example, Motorola includes FM reception worldwide on its *Moto G* and *Moto E* models, but not on its high-end *Moto X* product. Adding hybrid FM functionality to smartphones can help change this perception, and provide a richer, higher value experience.

### *II. Apple: A Special Case*

Apple’s *iPhone* represents a special case. Whereas a number of phones do not have their FM radio functionality enabled or exposed as a choice of the wireless carrier, the *iPhone* does not have this capability globally, per a decision made by the manufacturer. As Figure 1 above shows, this single decision accounts for why a very large percentage of smartphones sold in the U.S. are not FM-enabled. NAB Labs’ teardown analysis shows that all *iPhones* (since the 3GS model, which was released in 2009) utilize a connectivity chip that includes FM receiver capability, but in no case is FM capability enabled in the hardware.

It should be noted that Apple has enabled FM on other products, so its omission on the *iPhone* cannot be ascribed to the company’s lacking the technology. In fact, the implementation of FM radio capability on the *iPod Nano* product line—where it has been available since its 5<sup>th</sup> generation (2009)—is widely considered to be one of the best ever produced in a handheld device. It even includes the unique, DVR-like feature of a pause/rewind buffer, allowing the user to stop and restart live radio, or to rewind up to 30 minutes back into the audio that has been received on the device.

This implies that even carriers wishing to enable FM radio capability universally (e.g., Sprint) cannot do so on any model of the *iPhone* released to date.

### *III. Battery Life*

As mentioned above, FM radio listening generally requires significantly less current from handheld devices’ power sources than does streaming audio. Because smartphones are usually operated on battery power, and users may listen to radio services for extended periods, this issue may result in substantial battery life differences between FM and streaming radio usage.

Table 2 shows a comparison of average power consumption used by FM radio in a typical FM-enabled smartphone<sup>2</sup> versus three popular streaming radio services on the same phone. This analysis indicates an approximate 6:1 increase in battery life using FM radio rather than streaming radio. In times of crisis, not only does FM listening provide a higher likelihood of availability of emergency information, but the additional battery life may provide valuable extra listening time during these periods, when electrical power may also be temporarily unavailable for recharging smartphone batteries.

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<sup>2</sup> HTC *One M8* phone in 3G mode running native FM app.

USAGE	AVG. POWER CONSUMPTION	EXPECTED BATTERY LIFE
<b>FM Radio</b>	0.21 Watts	36.16 hrs
<b>Spotify IP Streaming</b>	1.32 Watts	6.04 hrs
<b>Pandora IP Streaming</b>	1.01 Watts	7.90 hrs
<b>TuneIn Radio IP Streaming</b>	1.27 Watts	6.26 hrs

TABLE 2 - BATTERY LIFE COMPARISON OF FM LISTENING AND STREAMING RADIO LISTENING ON THE SAME SMARTPHONE [1]

#### NEXT STEPS

Increased availability of FM enabled phones in the market must be a priority for radio broadcasters. Through the adoption of already available hybrid radio capabilities, broadcasters can provide FM radio with a user experience similar to that of streaming radio on mobile devices, but without the latency, service interruptions, data consumption, battery drain and lack of local or emergency information generally associated with streaming services.

#### REFERENCES

- [1] Sprint/NextRadio study, July 2013.
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