

The "Petki" in Brandenburg has got a new DAB + transmitting antenna A modern KATHREIN VHF transmission antenna system closes the last gaps in signal supply in the south of Berlin

by: Viktor Mann and Wolfgang Niedhammer, KATHREIN Broadcast GmbH, Rohrdorf, 19th July 2021

Two and a half years ago, extensive planning of a new DAB+ transmission system on the 106 m high telecommunications tower began in Petkus, Brandenburg. It is a landmark for the villagers and is affectionately just known as "Petki".

With a new, recently installed KATHREIN DAB+ transmitting antenna system, the last gaps in signal supply are to be closed within a radius of 45 km and high-quality DAB radio reception is also to be possible "in-house".

picture 1, right:
Telecommunications Tower "Petki"
in Petkus



picture 2, above:
A mobile heavy-duty special crane with extension boom
lifts the antenna system on the top of the concrete tower

Rundfunk Berlin-Brandenburg (RBB) commissioned KATHREIN Broadcast GmbH as the general contractor for this challenging project.

Viktor Mann, engineer at KATHREIN and responsible project manager reports: "The erection of an almost 10 m high and 3 ton heavy antenna at the top of the tower has to be statically examined and determined. The assembly at a height of over 100 m is not that easy either. This requires a special crane and an assembly crew with a lot of experience".

With Mastbau FN GmbH, KATHREIN has a reliable installation partner with whom they have already implemented numerous projects in the past. "It's not that easy, but if you plan carefully with everyone involved, you can do it. Of course, the weather should also be good", explains Torsten Kobylke, who was in charge of on-site assembly.

The work was then completed in June 2021. One last ascent to the antenna to see if everything is in place. An electrical function test and the system was accepted by the customer and operator of the station, Rundfunk Berlin-Brandenburg RBB.

The high-performance KATHREIN VHF transmitting antenna has gone into operation and the residents in the surrounding area are now looking forward to flawless reception of the diverse digital radio programs.

Axel Wolff from the RBB is pleased that this region is now covered almost everywhere with DAB+. "We have come a step closer to our goal of ensuring full coverage with DAB+ radio signals in Brandenburg. Other locations, e.g. in Eberswalde, are to follow this year", confirms Axel Wolff, who is in charge of network expansion at RBB. Further locations will be added in Brandenburg in the next few years to close the last gaps in the signal supply with DAB+. Ultimately, the goal is the best possible coverage.

*picture 3, right:
KATHREIN engineer Viktor Mann is pleased
with the perfect execution of the work*



Picture credits:

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