

Welcome to VOA Radiogram from the Voice of America.

I'm Kim Andrew Elliott in Washington.

Here is the lineup for today's program, all in MFSK32 except where noted:

1:48 Program preview (now)
2:58 Saturn's rings revealed in unprecedented detail*
7:05 Batteries will help power California's grid*
11:37 Olivia 64-2000: Breitbart News expands to Europe
19:31 MFSK32: VOA's 75th anniversary on 1 February*
26:52 Closing announcements*

* with image

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Saturn's Rings Revealed in 'Unprecedented' Detail

VOA News
January 31, 2017

New images of Saturn's rings reveal the greatest detail yet of the planet's signature trait, including what NASA calls "moonlets" embedded in them.

The images were taken by NASA's Cassini probe, which is in the final stages of its mission that includes "20 orbits that dive past the outer edge of the main ring system" before the spacecraft plunges into the planet itself.

"These close views represent the opening of an entirely new window onto Saturn's rings, and over the next few months we look forward to even more exciting data as we train our cameras on other parts of the rings closer to the planet," said Matthew Tiscareno, a Cassini scientist who studies Saturn's rings at the SETI Institute in Mountain View, California.

The images are the closest ever taken of Saturn's rings and, according to NASA "resolve details as small as 550 meters, which is on the scale of Earth's tallest buildings."

The "ring-grazing" orbits began last November and will continue until the end of April, and in addition to spotting the moonlets, they have given greater clarity to other structures within the rings such as the so-called propeller-like formations.

NASA added that Cassini has also provided the "closest-ever" glimpses of two small moons, Daphnis and Pandora.

Cassini was launched in 1997 and arrived at Saturn in 2004. Since then, the probe has provided closeup looks at the planet's rings

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and moons as well as data about Saturn's magnetic field. Some of the highlights include finding a possible global ocean on the moon Enceladus as well as methane seas on the moon Titan.

<http://www.voanews.com/a/mht-saturns-rings-revealed-in-unprecedented-detail/3700088.html>

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Image: A region in Saturn's outer B ring ...

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VOA NEWS

Batteries Ready to Power California Grid

George Putic, KI4FNF
January 31, 2017

Peak-hours demand for energy in Southern California will soon be covered by batteries instead of fossil-fuel-based power plants.

Thanks to the falling price of lithium-ion batteries, three battery manufacturing companies - Tesla, AES Corporation and Altagas Ltd. - are set to open huge energy storage plants in Southern California that, combined, amount to 15 percent of the battery storage installed around the world last year.

After a recent accident released thousands of tons of methane into the atmosphere, California power company Southern California Edison decided to replace some of its natural gas plants that provide additional energy during peak hours with batteries.

The batteries needed to store that amount of energy must be huge, or small but numerous - and in this case, numerous meant millions. But that did not discourage the battery companies, which built their plants in record time, within only six months.

Battery storage plants have numerous advantages. They are simpler to construct and operate, take up less space than plants burning fossil fuel, don't pollute and respond more quickly to spikes in energy demand.

However, analysts say in order for battery plants to be profitable, the total price of an installed project will have to

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fall from the current \$500 per kilowatt hour to less than \$275.

<http://www.voanews.com/a/batteries-ready-power-grid/3700652.html>

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Image: This Tesla Gigafactory in Nevada will manufacture batteries ...

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VOA Radiogram now changes to Olivia 64-2000 ...

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This is VOA Radiogram in Olivia 64-2000:

VOA NEWS

Europeans Fear Breitbart Will Be Used as Propaganda Channel

Jamie Dettmer
Jeff Seldin
February 1, 2017

LONDON/WASHINGTON - Breitbart News, the iconoclastic far-right website run until recently by White House strategist Steve Bannon, is planning to push deeper into Europe and to open bureaus soon in Germany and France to add to one already in London.

And already European officials are dubbing Breitbart the "Voice of Trump."

They warn that if Breitbart is used as a propaganda vehicle by the new administration, it will aggravate already raw relations with European Union governments. ...

Behind the scenes, many European officials speak of a creeping anxiety that the website, which claims 45 million unique monthly visitors, will seek to stir anti-establishment fervor in Europe much as it is accused of doing in the United States.

"The worry is that Breitbart will be a vehicle for weaponized
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information with planted stories useful to advance Bannon's Euro-skeptic agenda - much as the Kremlin uses Russia Today for the same purpose," said a senior European Union official who spoke to VOA on condition of anonymity so as not to antagonize the new U.S. administration. ..."

Full text: bit.ly/2jEDsCM

Returning to MFSK32 ...

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Voice of America Celebrates 75 Years

VOA press release
February 1, 2017

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Today the Voice of America (VOA) celebrates 75 years on the air. From its first 15-minute radio broadcast in German in 1942, VOA has grown into a multimedia international broadcast service providing programming and content in 47 languages on multiple platforms, including radio, television, and mobile.

On that first broadcast, announcer William Harlan Hale set the standard for all future VOA programs when he told his audience: "We bring you Voices from America. Today, and daily from now on, we shall speak to you about America and the war. The news may be good for us. The news may be bad. But we shall tell you the truth."

Today those words carry the weight of the VOA Charter that requires VOA, by law, to "serve as a consistently reliable and authoritative source of news." What's more, VOA news must "be accurate, objective, and comprehensive."

"It's been 75 years since we first began broadcasting objective news and information around the world," said VOA Director Amanda Bennett. "And now, I think what we do here is more important than ever."

Over the years, VOA correspondents and freelance reporters in many parts of the world have been on the scene to cover major world events. In 1989, VOA East European correspondent Jolyon Naegele reported on demonstrations in Czechoslovakia and the fall of the communist government. That same year on the other side of the world, VOA increased programming and added staff to its Beijing bureau, to cover the demonstrations in Tiananmen Square. VOA Beijing Bureau Chief Al Pessin was expelled from China for his reporting.

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Today VOA broadcasters use television and radio studios at its headquarters in Washington, D.C. to broadcast news and other programming through 2,500 television and radio affiliate stations around the world. At the same time, they provide content for mobile devices and interact with their audiences through social media. In 2016, the Voice of America's weekly audience across all platforms averaged more than 236 million people worldwide.

<http://www.insidevoa.com/a/voice-of-america-celebrates-75-years/3701459.html>

See also:

<http://www.insidevoa.com/p/6370.html>

<https://www.bbg.gov/2017/02/01/congratulations-voas-75th-anniversary/>

http://www.deutschlandfunk.de/vor-75-jahren-voice-of-america-sendet-erstmal-auf-deutsch.871.de.html?dram:article_id=377689

<http://www.chriskern.net/essay/voaFirstBroadcast.html>

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Image: Early VOA German-language broadcaster Robert Bauer ...

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More information about Robert Bauer:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert_Albert_Bauer

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Thanks to colleagues at the Edward R. Murrow shortwave transmitting station in North Carolina.

I'm Kim Elliott. Please join us for the next VOA Radiogram.

This is VOA, the Voice of America.

And, finally ...

Radio Australia ended its shortwave broadcasts on 31 January ...

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