

Solarradio com

Solar Radio was "born" when veteran broadcaster and avid soul music fan Tony Monson evolved a plan to raise a phoenix from the combined ashes of London pirate stations JFM and Horizon. Solar was an acronym of "Sound Of London's Alternative Radio", and built a DJ roster and twenty-four-hour programme schedule which would continue the crusade to promote soul and related music styles on the airwaves of Greater London.

The station was an instant success and with its non-stop campaigning to be awarded a legal franchise it may well have paved the way for the eventual deregulation of the radio airwaves. JFM and Horizon had started this campaign and Solar continued it until 30 September 1985, when the station voluntarily went off the air in order to be allowed to submit a licence application.

In 1998 things began to move when an opportunity arose for the station to lease airtime from the classic rock satellite station EKR. On 1 October 1998 a new station was launched as Solar FM - broadcasting soul, funk and jazz across Europe from 10pm to 6am nightly on a sub-carrier of Challenge TV.

On 1 June 1999 Solar began broadcasting twenty-four hours a day on a sub-carrier of MTV, reverting to the original call-sign of Solar Radio. With the advent of twenty-four-hour broadcasting new DJs came on board and some original Solar DJs also returned to the station.

The analogue satellite service continued until August 2000, and in September the next major milestone was reached with the switch to Sky Digital, on which platform we continue to broadcast to the UK and Europe as a free-to-air service on Sky channel 0129.

Solar Radio is a London-based radio station, which originally started life as a pirate radio station. Solar broadcasts primarily soul to London on DAB and online.

Solar (originally short for Sound of Londons Alternative Radio) first broadcast as a pirate radio station in October 1984, and was founded by DJ Tony Monson, who later joined Kiss FM. Solar ceased broadcasting in October 1988 as an unlicensed operator.

On 1 June 1999, Solar returned through satellite broadcasting, initially broadcasting on Astra 19.2°E, and then Astra 2 (used by Sky TV) from 9 August 2000 where they stayed until 31 May 2019. From 29 October 2015, Solar also commenced broadcasting on the Trial London DAB MUX.

Presenters on Solar include Tony Monson, Clive Richardson (from the original 1984 roster) Gary Spence, Steve Hobbs, Mike Gee, Lisa I'Anson, Ralph Tee, Louie Martin, Kid Batchelor, and Steve Johns. Robbie Vincent has occasionally guested on the station.

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