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## News

### Absolute to bid for GCap stations

01 December 2005 - 12:59:39

Liverpool station Juice FM's former co-owner Absolute Radio has declared it is planning to bid for the nine stations being sold off by GCap.



Absolute Radio disposed of its stake in Juice, its only station interest, to fellow co-owner Ulster Television in September, but its operations and programming director Clive Dickens says it is now ready to make its next move.

"Having had what we consider to be a very successful two years in Liverpool with revenues going up by 50% and audience doubling, we're now looking for our next project," he says. "That was a £4-6m deal and this is significantly bigger than that."

The nine stations in question being sold by GCap are in two geographic clusters, covering the north west where Absolute operated Juice and the south west. All previously part of GWR, the stations are MFM and The Buzz in Chester and Wrexham; Coast FM on the north Wales coast; Champion FM in the Caernarfon area; Gemini FM/Plymouth Sound in the Exeter and Torbay/Plymouth area; Orchard FM in Taunton and Yeovil; Lantern FM in Barnstaple; and South Hams.

In announcing the proposed sale of the stations last week, GCap noted the stations were forecast to report revenue in excess of £12m and around £5m of operating profit in the year to March 2006. "It's not often a profitable radio station comes in the market for sale," says Absolute's Dickens.

The one-time Capital Radio programming executive adds his company has registered its interest with GCap about the stations, although he is expecting there to be a lot of additional interest. Among others who could be in the running is The Local Radio Company (TLRC), which already owns 27 stations across the UK with three launches planned, although Dickens notes the combined audience of the nine GCap stations is larger than TLRC's existing assets. Absolute's former Juice partner Ulster Television could also be interested along with Australia's Macquarie Bank.

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## The Poll

**In light of  
Friday's press  
conference, will  
the Take That  
tour be magic  
without Robbie?**

 Yes

 No

[Last Week's Poll](#)

## Music Week Playlist

**Akira The Don  
Clones  
(Something In  
Construction)  
Nizlopi  
JCB Song  
(FDM)  
Sway  
Little Derek  
(Dycypha)  
Story One  
Beggars Belief  
(Shy Records)  
Imogen Heap  
I Can't Take It In  
(Disney)  
Tina Dico  
Warn Sand  
(Finest  
Gramophone)  
Sing-Sing  
Sing Me A Song  
(Aerial)  
Steven Lindsay  
Breakdown  
(Seminal)**



01/12/2005 18:48:13