

P R O F I L E



Language of Broadcast: Uzbek

Content: 3.5 hrs. of original radio programming per week; 0.5 hrs. of original TV programming per week; Internet

Distribution: 3 affiliates (2 FM, 1 TV); 4 IBB SW frequencies; Satellite (Yamal, Hotbird, Asiasat)

TV: VOA's 30-minute weekly TV show *Exploring America* is carried by Keremet TV in Osh, Kyrgyzstan twice a week. The program is repeated on AsiaSat every day of the week.

Radio: The daily 30-minute radio show is carried by Radio Almaz FM in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan and broadcasted via 4 IBB SW frequencies and Shaharwand FM in Samangan, Afghanistan as well as satellites Yamal and Hotbird.

New Media: The Service is active on web and mobile pages, podcast, RSS feeds, a Facebook fan page, Twitter, YouTube, and Russia based **Мой Мир** and **ВКонтакте** social media pages, and sends out a daily e-mail newsletter.

Staff: 4 | **Budget:** \$585,000

Established: 1958; 1972 to present; TV service established in 2004



Language of Broadcast: Uzbek

Content: 20.3 hrs. of original and 32 hrs. of repeat radio programming per week; Internet

Distribution: 1 IBB MW and 3 SW frequencies, Satellite

RFE/RL's delivery includes multiple SW frequencies, 1 cross-border MW from Armenia, Yamal, HotBird, and AsiaSat.

New Media: Internet with proxies and streaming audio, Uzbek youth-oriented page in Latin script, mobile site, Facebook, Twitter and branded YouTube page.

Staff: 10

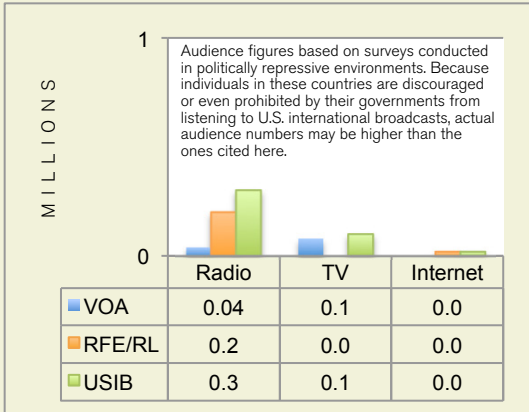
Budget: \$1,431,000

Established: 1953 to present



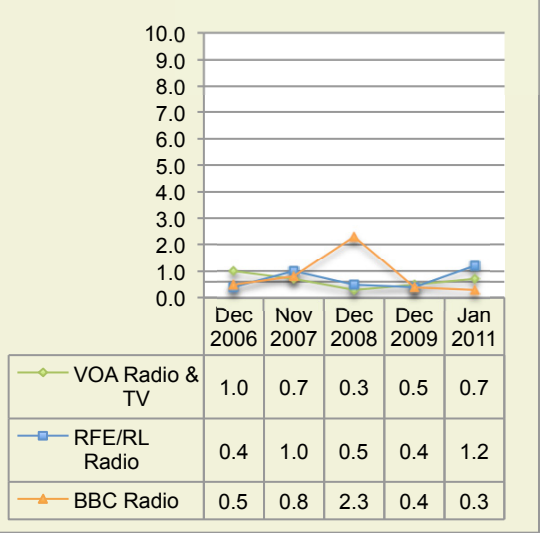
P E R F O R M A N C E D A T A (Using Data from Uzbekistan, January 2011)

Audience Size



Weekly Reach by Media (%)			
	VOA	RFE/RL	USIB
Radio	0.2	1.2	1.3
TV	0.4	na	0.4
Internet	0	.1	.1
Total	0.7	1.2	1.7

Weekly Reach



Awareness (%)	
VOA	RFE/RL
19	31

Credibility

Percentage of surveyed weekly audience that finds broadcasts credible (%)*		
	VOA	RFE/RL
Radio	na	na
TV	na	na

Understanding

Percentage of weekly audience whose understanding of topics increased "A Great Deal" or "Somewhat" (%)*		
	VOA Radio*	RFE/RL
Current Events	na	na
U.S. Culture (VOA) or Current Events in Uzbekistan (RFE/RL)	na	na
U.S. Policies	na	na

Quality

Combined Scores from audience panel		
	VOA	RFE/RL
Radio	3.6	3.1
TV	3.6	na

*Samples of VOA and RFE/RL weekly listeners in the survey are too small for meaningful analysis.

Data are from a January 2011 nationwide survey of adults (15+) in Uzbekistan.

Uzbek Broadcasting

Total Population of Uzbekistan: 28.5 million

A U D I E N C E C O M P O S I T I O N

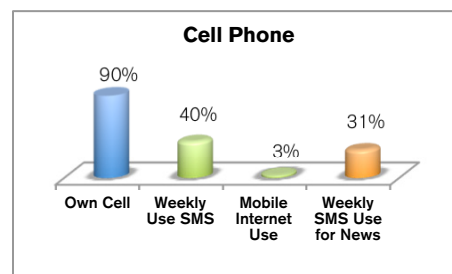
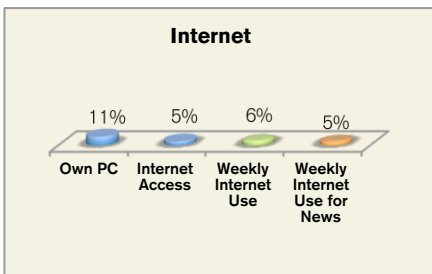
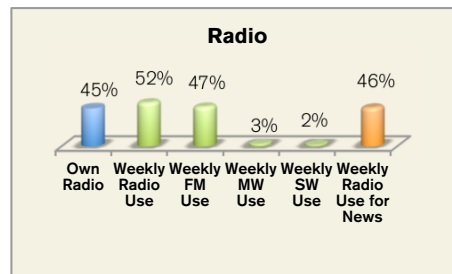
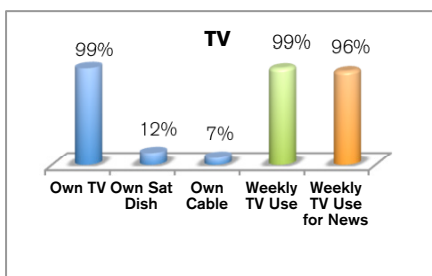
	Sample	VOA Weekly Aud.*	RFE/RL Weekly Aud.*
Sex	%	%	%
Male	50	na	na
Female	50	na	na
Age			
15-24	29	na	na
25-34	26	na	na
35-44	18	na	na
45-54	14	na	na
55-64	8	na	na
65+	5	na	na

	Sample	VOA Weekly Aud.*	RFE/RL Weekly Aud.*
Education	%	%	%
None/Primary	1	na	na
Secondary	58	na	na
Technical	28	na	na
Higher	13	na	na
Ethnicity/Nationality			
Uzbek	86	na	na
Tajik	3	na	na
Russian	2	na	na
Other	10	na	na

	Sample	VOA Weekly Aud.*	RFE/RL Weekly Aud.*
Residence	%	%	%
Urban	53	na	na
Rural	47	na	na
Language			
Uzbek	86	na	na
Tajik	4	na	na
Russian	4	na	na
Other	6	na	na

*Samples of VOA and RFE/RL weekly listeners in the survey are too small for meaningful analysis.

M E D I A U S E



Top Ten Media Outlets

1. TV Yoshlar
2. UZ TV 1
3. TV Sport (Tashkent)
4. Markaz TV (Tashkent)
5. Vodiy Sadosy/Echo Doliny
6. Uz Radio-4 Yoshlar
7. ORT-1
8. Uz Radio-2 Mashal
9. NTV
10. Namangan TV

Top Ten Sources of News

1. TV Yoshlar
2. Uz TV 1
3. TV Sport (Tashkent)
4. Darakchi
5. ORT-1
6. NTV
7. Vodiy Sadosy/Echo Doliny
8. Uz Radio-4 Yoshlar
9. RTR
10. Uz Radio-2 Mashal

Web Analytics

VOA Weekly Visitors	3,000
Weekly Visits	6,300
RFE/RL Weekly Visitors	18,500
Weekly Visits	102,600

C O N T E X T



Political Situation

- **Freedom House Political Freedom Index (2011): NOT FREE**
- **Economist Intelligence Unit Instability (2010): HIGH RISK**
- The political situation in Uzbekistan is dismal but stable. The country remains one of the most repressive in the region. Stability is maintained by draconian measures restricting citizens from voicing any opposition to authorities.
- Uzbekistan's president Islam Karimov started an unconstitutional third term in office in 2008. He and his clan continue to use their power to repress political opposition, freedom of speech, religion, and assembly. The country is also one of the most corrupt in the world -- ranked 177 out of 182 countries surveyed in Transparency International's 2011 Corruption Perceptions Index.
- As in the Soviet era, the government maintains a system of surveillance of its citizens. It has a widespread network of 'whistleblowers' in the mahallas (neighborhood communities) who report to authorities suspicious activities of citizens. The system is also used to carry out surveillance at mosques.

Media Environment

- **Freedom House Press Freedom Index (2011): NOT FREE**
- **Reporters Without Borders Index (2011): 83.00 (157/179)**
- The government of Uzbekistan shows no signs of decreasing pressure on media outlets or civil society despite a somewhat improved relationship with the EU and the United States in the last year. Complete control of mass media outlets, including the Internet, as well as harassment of independent journalists, continued in 2011. There are no independent media sources in Uzbekistan. Self-sustaining private media businesses are practically nonexistent. TV, in particular, is heavily censored and used by the government mainly as a propaganda tool.
- The government has also taken new steps to control the Internet. According to IREX, the government applies sophisticated filtering technology to control the flow of information via the Internet. IREX information is supported by accounts from inside the country. According to Expert-Fikri, the government has recently purchased state-of-the-art filtering software that blocks articles based on keywords and monitors social networks and blogs. The government has blocked the websites of international broadcasters for several years—not only Western ones, but also a number of Russia-originated sites that report on Uzbekistan, such as fergananeews.com, centrasia.ru and uzmetronom.com.
- The spread of recent revolutionary movements across the Middle East will probably lead to further tightening of the Internet in Uzbekistan. As the reaction to the Osh events of 2010 demonstrated, the Uzbekistani government is wary of the effects outside demonstrations could have on their internal situation. The Uzbekistani government used pictures of violence in Osh on domestic TV to relay a message to Uzbekistanis that revolutions bring violence and suffering.