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Welcome to program 69 of VOA Radiogram from the Voice of America.

I'm Kim Andrew Elliott in Washington.

Here is the lineup for today's program (MFSK32):

1:38 Program preview (now)
2:32 Voice of Russia in Washington, with image
6:14 Iranian satellite jamming, with image
10:47 Battery of the future, with image
18:29 VOA Russian on global Internet policy, with image
25:10 Closing announcements

Please send reception reports to radiogram@voanews.com.

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Twitter: @VOARadiogram

<EOT>

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Voice of Russia Shuts DC Bureau

VOA News
July 15, 2014

Facing legal problems, the Russian government-funded radio network – the Voice of Russia – has fired its Washington bureau staff and closed the office.

The shutdown happened July 14, amid allegations of tax fraud and claims of racial discrimination at the network.

Alexei Iazlovsky, the head of the VOR's U.S. operations, pleaded guilty last year to tax fraud and will be sentenced later this year.

VOR's employment practices also have attracted attention from the IRS and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

The IRS is investigating whether VOR used contractors alongside full-time, salaried employees to skirt payroll taxes. The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission took an interest in VOR after several former staffers claimed they were fired because of their race.

The employees have filed a lawsuit against International TV Services, VOR's contract manager in the United States.

Some suspect Voice of Russia will quickly return to the U.S. through a different management company without the legal troubles.

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Earlier this year, the Russians stopped Voice of America broadcasting in Moscow on AM radio.

<http://www.voanews.com/content/voice-of-russia-shuts-dc-bureau/1958378.html>

Note from Kim: The Voice of Russia is the former Radio Moscow, which broadcast in more languages, from more transmitters, than any international radio station of the Cold War era. Voice of Russia is still available in the Washington area, 24 hours a day, leasing time on WZHF, 1390 kHz AM. With the VOR Washington studio closed, all Voice of Russia programs now originate in Moscow. The station usually identifies itself as "Radio VR."

<EOT>

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<EOT>

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From Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty:

Iranian Satellite Jamming Causes Storm Of Controversy

By Frud Bezhan
July 23, 2014

The Iranian regime has long used signal jamming to disrupt the flow of information into the Islamic republic, but it couldn't have forecast the strategy's deadly consequences.

Satellite-jamming technology is being blamed for disrupting Iran's ability to predict a major dust storm that hit Tehran in June, killing five people.

In a report presented to parliament this week, the Iran Meteorological Organization claimed it was unable to forecast the massive dust storm because of signals emitted by jamming devices, according to the semiofficial ISNA news agency on July 22.

In addition to the five killed, the June 2 storm injured several dozen people and knocked out power to around 50,000 homes in the capital, according to Iranian media reports.

ISNA quoted Iran Meteorological Organization official Ahad Vazifeh as saying that pertinent authorities had been warned of the effect of jamming signals on meteorology forecasts before the deadly storm hit Tehran.

Iran has been known to use jamming technology to prevent satellite transmissions of foreign-based television and radio channels.

The government seems to intensify its jamming efforts during sensitive times, such as the widespread protests that followed Iran's 2009 presidential election, and the Arab Spring revolutions.

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Iranian officials have acknowledged that signal jamming takes place, and have even warned of potentially negative consequences, including health dangers posed by signal jamming.

In February, the Iranian Health Ministry set up a committee to investigate whether the government's jamming of satellite signals could pose a health risk to citizens.

<http://www.rferl.org/content/iran-jamming-controversy-storm/25467735.html>

<EOT>

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<EOT>

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VOA NEWS

Chicago's Argonne Lab Developing Battery of the Future

Kane Farabaugh
July 20, 2014

CHICAGO - In 2012, the Department of Energy's Office of Science awarded a \$120 million grant to a new technology center focused on battery development - headquartered at Argonne National Laboratory in suburban Chicago, Illinois. The Joint Center for Energy Storage Research brings together scientists and engineers from government, national laboratories, and industry to provide them with the tools, funding, and space to make the next technological breakthrough in energy storage.

Smaller. Lighter. Longer Lasting. That's what consumers want in the batteries they use to power personal electronics.

At the Joint Center for Energy Storage Research, or J-CESR, researchers hope to meet the demand.

This is the birthplace of the lithium ion battery technology, but J-CESR scientists and engineers have bigger - and smaller - goals in mind.

"Five times the energy density at one fifth the cost." And all this is five years, according to deputy director Jeffrey Chamberlain. Cell phones, he says, are the devices where consumers will first notice a change.

"So instead of charging it every day, they might be able to charge it every few days or every week. Or instead of having certain power and capability, they might be able to get to a kind of power that might be unimaginable," says he.

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Chamberlain says the ultimate goal is to change the worldwide automotive market.

"The bigger mission we are on is trying to store energy in a way that is cost-effective and safe so that we can compete directly with the internal combustion engine using electricity or electric transport," says Chamberlain.

Argonne's Energy Systems Division Director Don Hillebrand says more power for personal electronics is an easy sell - but consumers demand change when it comes to cars.

"Some consumers want an all-electric vehicle. The big debate right now is how many of them are there? That number changes based on how much gasoline costs. Really at what point does gasoline get expensive enough that it drives more people into wanting all-electrics?" - asks Hillebrand.

Hillebrand says the sales figures this year - about ten thousand electric vehicles sold per month in the United States - is below industry expectations, but the battery the center is developing could change the picture.

"It's showing steady growth as we go forward. That number needs to be ten times bigger for us to really say that this program has been a success, and getting to that ten times is really tied to getting the battery to what we need it to be," says Hillebrand.

But if that battery development is successful, and sales of electric powered vehicles take off, there will be increased demand on the existing power grid to recharge those batteries - a problem the scientists and researchers at J-CESR are also tackling by developing a large scale battery for the grid.

<http://www.voanews.com/content/chicago-argonne-lab-developing-battery-of-the-future/1961622.html>

<EOT>

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Image: Screenshot from the video version of this VOA News story...

<EOT>

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<EOT>

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From VOA Russian/от VOA «Голос Америки»:

Свобода Интернета и национальная безопасность

Юлия Савченко
17.07.2014

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Нейтральность сети и свободный Интернет – вот цель, достижение которой администрация Обамы считает основной в сфере коммуникационной политики. В частности, она поддерживает идею форума по управлению Интернетом – площадки, созданной в США для обсуждения и формулирования проблем управления глобальной сетью.

В рамках этого форума в среду 16 июля в Вашингтоне состоялось обсуждение проблемы, давно уже занимающей практиков и теоретиков Интернета: кто и как должен регулировать глобальную сеть.

«Мы рассматриваем Интернет как территорию, открытую для соревнования самых разных игроков», – подчеркнул участвовавший в форуме заместитель министра торговли по коммуникациям и информационной политике Лоуренс Стриклинг.

«Мы в США считаем, что здоровая конкуренция и участие в развитии Интернета всех участников коммуникационного процесса является тем путем, по которому должны идти всемирная сеть в процессе своего развития», – продолжал Стриклинг.

Эта новость статья продолжает:
<http://www.golos-ameriki.ru/content/article/1959218.html>

<EOT>

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<EOT>

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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.

<EOT>

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<EOT>

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