

Minutes of BATC Zoom committee Meeting

3rd December 2023

Present: Martin Charman (chair) Dave Crump (Treasurer) Noel Matthews (Secretary) Rob Burn Frank Heritage Phil Crump	Ian Parker Tony Stone Tim Forrester Apologies Dave Mann (President) Clive Reynolds Brian Summers
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Martin opened the meeting at 8pm.

Main purpose of the meeting was to agree to purchase 1,130 Serit 4334 NIMs.

Minutes of previous meeting held on July 19th and August 6th 2023 were agreed.

Purchase of Serit 4334 NIMs.

Martin opened the discussion by saying this is the largest amount of money spent by BATC but it was vital to secure the future of DATV.

Background is that since 2017, the DATV community worldwide has been developed around the use of the Serit 4334 NIM which enabled the use of very low symbol rates. During 2023 Serit announced, due to unavailability of chips, the last time buy of the unit and BATC purchased 400 units. Since then the community has investigated alternative approaches to developing a NB DATV receiver but none were successful.

By November 2023 BATC stocks were down to around 20 units – however, as a result of some pressure from BATC, Serit secured stocks of the silicon and has offered BATC a last time buy of 1130 units, albeit at a significantly higher price.

The treasurer then walked the committee through the financial analysis – attached as appendix 1.

The major concern of the committee was that the cost of sale at around £50 compared to £25 previously, was too high. Dave and Noel said this could be potentially offset by replacing the FTDI USB module with the Rpi Pico and that a project was underway to look at the feasibility of this.

The proposal to buy 1130 units as detailed in the financial proposal was proposed by Dave and seconded by Rob. The committee agreed 100% to proceed with the purchase.

The meeting closed at 21:00

Appendix 1

Financial Plan for Proposed Tuner Purchase V2 - BATC Treasurer 3 Dec 23

Tuners Available from Serit

Cost of 1130 tuners: $1130 * \$45 / 1.25 = £40,680$. Plus shipping costs makes max £41.5k. Import duty would be about £9.5k. (Payable on delivery in UK)

Total cost £51k

BATC Current Financial Situation

Teachers Building Society £48,731

Lloyds Current Account £24,839

PayPal £721

Total £74,291

Liability to members £13,600

Imminent CQ-TV Bill £2,600

Available in next month: £58,091

Proposed Plan

Transfer £35k from BS to current account. Leaves £13,731 to cover liability to members

Current account would then have £59,839 for purchase and duty.

PayPal £721 and increasing with subs and shop sales. Steps required:

1. Transfer deposit of up to £21,000 (50%) to Serit ASAP. Leaves £3,839
2. Building Society Funds arrive on 3 Jan. So Current Account £38,839.
3. Pay balance (£20,500) to Serit ASAP. So Current Account £18,339.
4. Pay import duty of £9,500 from current account when required. (leaves £8,559)
5. Pay CQ-TV bill (approx £2600) from current account at any time.

Situation after

Teachers Building Society £13,731

Lloyds Current Account £5,959

PayPal £721

Ongoing Management

After paying for the tuners and duty we will have £6,680 of available funds. Routine expenses until mid-Jan are approx. £750. PayPal ongoing revenue (membership/sales) will continue to top up allowing us to pay running costs and future CQ-TVs until delivery is made and tuner sales commence.

Risks

Sale price (£45 - £50) too high.

QO-100 failure.

Service go under with our money.

Alternative cheaper product becomes available.

Technology moves beyond DVB-S2.

Impact of not Purchasing

Reduced bandwidth DATV ceases to be available to the future amateur TV community