

# The Largest U.S. International Broadcaster

## FAST FACTS

**HEADQUARTERS:** Washington, DC  
**BUDGET:** \$252M (FY20)  
**EMPLOYEES:** 982  
**LANGUAGES:** 47  
**AUDIENCE:** 280.9 million weekly  
**MEDIA:** Radio, television, mobile and the Internet

**PURPOSE:** To broadcast accurate, balanced, and comprehensive news and information to an international audience  
**FACILITIES:** 10 broadcast TV studios, 32 video editing suites, 21 radio broadcast studios including 3 designed for radio on TV, 7 for Facebook Live and 1 for live musical events. 20 radio production and

recording studios, 26 professional audio mixing and dubbing stations. Radio and TV facilities for master control, recording, scheduling, feed intake and graphic production.

**HISTORY:** Broadcasts began in 1942 as a response to the need of peoples in closed and war-torn societies for reliable news

## THE VOA CHARTER

President Gerald Ford signed the VOA Charter into law in 1976. It protects the independence and integrity of VOA programming.

1. VOA will serve as a consistently reliable and authoritative source of news. VOA news will be accurate, objective, and comprehensive.
2. VOA will represent America, not any single segment of American society, and will therefore present a balanced and comprehensive projection of significant American thought and institutions.
3. VOA will present the policies of the United States clearly and effectively, and will also present responsible discussions and opinion on these policies.



## VOA PRODUCTS AND PROGRAMS

- VOA broadcasts about 1,800 hours of radio and television programming each week to an estimated global audience of 280.9 million people.
- Language services use their websites and social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter and YouTube to share content and interact with the audience.
- VOA's world-renowned music and English-language learning programs are enjoyed by millions of people around the world.
- Journalists in VOA's 30,000 square foot Newscenter work around the clock with a global network of correspondents to provide comprehensive news and analysis on key issues, U.S. government policies, and cultural developments.
- VOA programs are delivered on satellite, cable, shortwave, FM, medium wave, streaming audio and video and more than 2,500 media outlets worldwide.

**“The news may be good. The news may be bad.  
We shall tell you the truth.”**

– William Harlan Hale, First VOA Broadcast (1942)

VOA is one of the largest multimedia news organizations in the world.



## VOA AND TECHNOLOGY

- VOA has the largest integrated digital audio system in the world.
- A network of transmitting stations operated by the U.S. Agency for Global Media, along with some leased stations, sends VOA's programs instantaneously around the world.
- The website, VOAnews.com, provides a wide range of English-language news reports and serves as a portal to homepages of all 47 languages broadcast by VOA, as well as other information about VOA.
- A state-of-the-art digital asset management system enables VOA journalists to record, view and edit video, deliver content to studio control rooms, write scripts and search commercial newswires in a single program.

## SEE VOA LIVE

- Take a behind-the-scenes look at VOA through our guided tour.
- Learn more about our history and the regions to which we broadcast and watch broadcasters during live TV and radio programs.
- For reservations or more information, visit VOAtour.com

## THE UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR GLOBAL MEDIA (USAGM)

- USAGM is an independent federal agency that oversees all non-military U.S. international broadcasting including the Voice of America.
- USAGM staff carry out Board decisions and oversight for all of U.S. international broadcasting. The Board is composed of nine members with expertise in the fields of mass communications, broadcast media, or international affairs. Eight members are appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate. The ninth, the Secretary of State, serves ex officio.
- The mission of USAGM is to inform, engage, and connect people around the world in support of freedom and democracy.



**"Voice of America is also Voice of Africa."**

– Ivory Coast Ambassador Daouda Diabate

For more information about the VOA Studio Tour, VOA Experts available to the media, and the latest news releases, go to [InsideVOA.com](http://InsideVOA.com)

## VOA BROADCASTS AROUND THE WORLD IN 47 LANGUAGES:

Afan Oromo  
Albanian  
Amharic  
Armenian  
Azerbaijani  
Bambara  
Bangla  
Bosnian  
Burmese  
Cantonese  
Creole  
Dari  
English  
French  
Georgian  
Hausa  
Indonesian  
Khmer  
Kinyarwanda  
Kirundi  
Korean  
Kurdish  
Lao  
Lingala  
Macedonian  
Mandarin  
Ndebele  
Pashto  
Persian  
Portuguese  
Rohingya  
Russian  
Sango  
Serbian  
Shona  
Somali  
Spanish  
Swahili  
Thai  
Tibetan  
Tigrigna  
Turkish  
Ukrainian  
Urdu  
Uzbek  
Vietnamese  
Wolof

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