

RDS Forum – the association of RDS users

A few good reasons for joining the RDS Forum in 2017

Since many years the RDS Forum offers to the industry, broadcasters, transmission providers and regulators a superb professional contact network. Supporting the transition to digital radio over the next years has been one of the primary issues studied by the Forum for a number of years already. The Forum studied how to link national, regional, sub-regional and local radio programmes best in a hybrid (analogue and digital) radio landscape. Today the RDS technology is in the process of being adapted to what mobile FM/RDS radio receivers need today (e.g. linkage to Internet). Thanks to the high level of expertise of its members and cooperation with other Fora, a huge experience has been built over the last decades. As a result guidelines have been issued and will continue to be developed as a valuable support in design and implementation for all Forum members involved.

In 2014, the RDS technical specification had its 30th anniversary. There has been success all over and billions of FM radios with RDS have been built so far. In quantities on top are smart phones, followed by car radios of which the features of RDS auto-tuning (AF), the pan-European traffic info system TA/TP and the TMC concept have had worldwide support from the automotive industry, since at least 20 years.

In the meantime it became clear that the transition to digital radio is much slower than it was initially anticipated. Worldwide, FM radio will most probably not be replaced and will just continue to co-exist next to digital radio.

Thus, 2015 - 2017 are the years for an adaption of the RDS technology for the next 30 years, using the full experience gained in the past. Full backwards compatibility is for the Forum a very important objective to be met.

The focus during 2015 - 2016 was concentrated on RDS2, the innovative RDS enhancement developed by a number of RDS Forum members. The priority was the adaptation of the RDS standard and now in 2017 the UECP, the Universal Encoder Communication Protocol. A first proposal was already demonstrated at the second RDS2 Info Day at Radio France in November 2016.

An RDS2 demo was first presented in a public meeting during the first RDS2 Info Day, held in November 2015 in Berlin, where RDS Forum experts explained to 70 radio professionals from 14 countries from all over the world the new developments and possibilities that RDS2 will be able to offer.

For RDS2, it was explained that it will be necessary to completely re-structure the worldwide RDS standard IEC 62106, an objective being achieved in December 2016 with the submission of the newly updated RDS/RDS2 standard draft from the RDS Forum to the IEC TC 100.

The whole concept and the process for this adaptation had been agreed by the RDS Forum in 2015. This opens the door for a large number of innovations that can now be included into RDS using the Open Data Applications (ODA) feature that will play a pre-dominant role for RDS2 in the future. RDS2 is not only data over the air, but a complete platform that connects FM broadcasting with the Internet and vice versa. The ODA (Open Data Application) concept will be fundamental for RDS2 and form a solid foundation on which one will be able to create quickly very innovative data services in an easy way. This may include FM radio apps for smart phones and also further support for the connected car concept. RDS2 is IPR free as it was jointly developed by the RDS Forum to be an open technology just like RDS has always been.

RDS2 may offer a new boost to your business plans and set new objectives. This could be for you the right moment and the opportunity now to join the RDS Forum 2017 as a member and contribute to the exciting developments that continue to take place within the RDS Forum. Being part of such a motivated team is inspiring and may give fun as well.

The RDS Forum was formed in 1993 as a self-funded non-profit organization.

One annual meeting of the full Forum is held, always in June, at Hotel Victoria in Glion/Montreux, Switzerland. This location can easily be reached by train from Geneva airport (see www.victoria-glion.ch). The RDS Forum has met there during the last 15 years as this was always considered as an excellent meeting location by the Forum.

The next RDS Forum meeting will be on 12 and 13 June 2017.

A member registration form for the RDS Forum 2017 is attached.

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RDS Forum 2017 membership registration form

The annual membership fee in Swiss franc per delegate for the RDS Forum is CHF 2'900.— (or the equivalent of about E U R 2700.-) .

Please register me as a new member

.....Name
.....First name
.....Company / Organisation
.....Address (1)
.....Address (2)
.....Telephone
.....Fax
.....E-mail

Please return this form by e-mail to rdsforum@bluewin.ch

You will receive a confirmation of your registration as RDS Forum Member