

RDS Forum - the association of RDS users

A message from the RDS Forum CEO and the Chairman

The RDS Forum, what it has achieved

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

- to represent the interests of consumer electronics manufacturers and broadcast service providers,
- to foster and develop the best practice and implementation of the Radio Data System.

It grew out of some 20 years of development supported by the European Broadcasting Union.

Quite simply, the RDS Forum provides the mechanism whereby many experts share their knowledge about the RDS system through occasional and regular meetings, the medium of the internet and by the distribution of an annual CD-ROM, *containing GUIDELINES, new RADIO TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENTS & SPECIFICATIONS.*

In the last ten years the RDS Forum has proved its worth many times over by:

- drafting and maintaining the worldwide IEC RDS standard (updated in 2009 with new features RT+ and eRT);
- developing a new IEC standard to measure the RDS performance of receivers, writing detailed RDS guidelines to show users how RDS should be implemented and how the transition to digital radio DAB can be handled by mobile receivers;
- advising developers how to best implement all the RDS features;
- updating the Universal Communication Encoder Protocol for broadcast service providers (UECP) that ensures connectivity with the transmitter network, permitting the use of RDS encoders from different manufacturers within the same transmitter network.

FURTHERMORE the RDS Forum is in a strong position of knowledge to resist any unjustified patent claims that may arise.

The RDS Forum continues an ongoing vital development role, running the Open Data Applications (ODA) registrations office required to register new applications within RDS and secure their compatibility with the standardised RDS features.

The RDS Forum maintains a comprehensive website too. This ensures that worldwide interests are well informed and kept up to date on all developments. For more details refer to Attachment 1.

So why does the RDS Forum need to continue?

The RDS Forum has been an enormous success, RDS is now widely implemented with well over a three billion RDS radios in use worldwide. In 2011, we assessed the annual FM/RDS radio IC production to have exceeded one billion units per year. There is a widespread misleading prediction made by the promoters of digital radio technology that FM radio will soon be replaced by Digital Radio. The reality is somewhat different. FM radio with RDS is increasingly used in mobile devices like the iPod nano and the large majority of mobile phones. For instance, several billion FM/RDS radios have now been sold, whereas digital radio sales worldwide are still below the 50 million mark, and in addition almost all of these also have an FM/RDS receiver built in.

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Nevertheless, the RDS Forum believes that within the next 20 years there will be a smooth transition to Digital Radio and for some years the RDS Forum has supported that transition. Each year, during the annual RDS Forum meeting, we hold a workshop dealing with the transition issues and the next one on 11/12 June 2012 will be a very interesting one. The draft agenda and the workshop topics are attached and if you find this meeting of interest, please consider joining us.

In the course of preparation for this the RDS Forum has collected a large number of documents that are used by the RDS Forum members as a very helpful reference for the support of the transition. Using the RDS/RT+ feature it is now possible for broadcasting music items to provide 'titles' and 'artist' information over RadioText, which is increasingly popular in both, Europe and the USA. Since 2009 the iPod nano and several new Nokia mobile phone models (N8, E7, C7, C6) use RT+. For RDS with RT+ there is also an application now supporting Android phones.

New markets and broadcasters are constantly emerging with a need to develop RDS for their own use. The RDS Forum has recently recognised the need to address displays for non-Latin characters. Enhanced RadioText (eRT) was designed specifically for the countries in Central and Eastern Europe, so that all their languages and character sets are supported.

If we had no RDS Forum any longer - what might happen?

Just think of the damage that would be caused to the RDS system if implementations were allowed to ignore good practice:

- unregistered ODA Applications;
- non-conforming PI codes causing chaotic receiver performance, producing undesirable effects outside national borders;
- wrong injection levels causing widespread interference in receivers;
- Radio Text and Radio Text Plus delivered incompatibly with receiver display ability;
- "dynamic PS" display causing driver distraction, resulting in accidents;
- FM-RDS/DAB tuners randomly switching between radio programmes;
- no support for multi-standard radio programme Service Following, very important for car radios travelling large distances.

This sort of chaos and many more problems will only grow without the authority of the RDS Forum monitoring, and where possible correcting, such errors.

Meeting Place

Without the annual RDS Forum meeting (the next one will be on **11 and 12 June 2012** in Glion/Montreux, Switzerland) new people working on all these developments will have no personal relationship with other colleagues in the various parts of the RDS value chain and no pool of knowledge and expertise on which they can draw.

- ***Non-RDS Forum members can and are welcome to attend the annual RDS Forum meeting as a Guest and paying a Guest conference fee then of 800.- Swiss francs.***

The registration form for the RDS Forum 2012 meeting is attached.

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The Long Term Position

The present RDS Forum membership acknowledges that eventually, when Digital Radio is in widespread use, there may no longer be a role for the Forum. This is unlikely to be the case before 2020 or even 2025.

In the meantime, in order to maintain the success and business viability of the Radio Data System, the functions of the RDS Forum need a small amount of financial support through the full membership fee. This is currently set at the modest sum of € 2,000 per annum, which is much less than other similar bodies and associations are charging.

This is really a very small price to pay for the stability and continued commercial success of the Radio Data System. Consider the size of this sum in relation to the total investment you have already made in RDS.

By joining you will be making a very good investment to ensure proper delivery of RDS services and products to the millions of listeners who deserve to be well served with the benefits of RDS.

The transition to Digital Radio will be supported by the RDS Forum

DAB and HD Radio, and in the future also DRM, all have their benefits, there is no doubt about that and this is clearly recognized by the RDS Forum. These benefits however must be seen in the right perspective.

The RDS Forum believes in a peaceful co-existence between both, analogue and digital broadcasts for at least one or even two decades. Even after this time a full, world-wide switching off of FM transmitters is not very likely, especially for the very large majority of countries all over the world.

However to prepare the listeners for the “new” digital standards, both analogue and digital broadcasters should try to point to each other as much as possible to aid the introduction of new features. By doing this, people will automatically become interested and will see the advantages of the new technology.

The 2011 RDS Forum meeting held on 30 and 31 May 2011 in Monteux/Glion was attended by 40 experts from Europe and the USA and within the agenda we dealt at some length with these interesting issues, and have also made some recommendations to the EC's Radio Spectrum Policy Group regarding the future of Digital Radio.

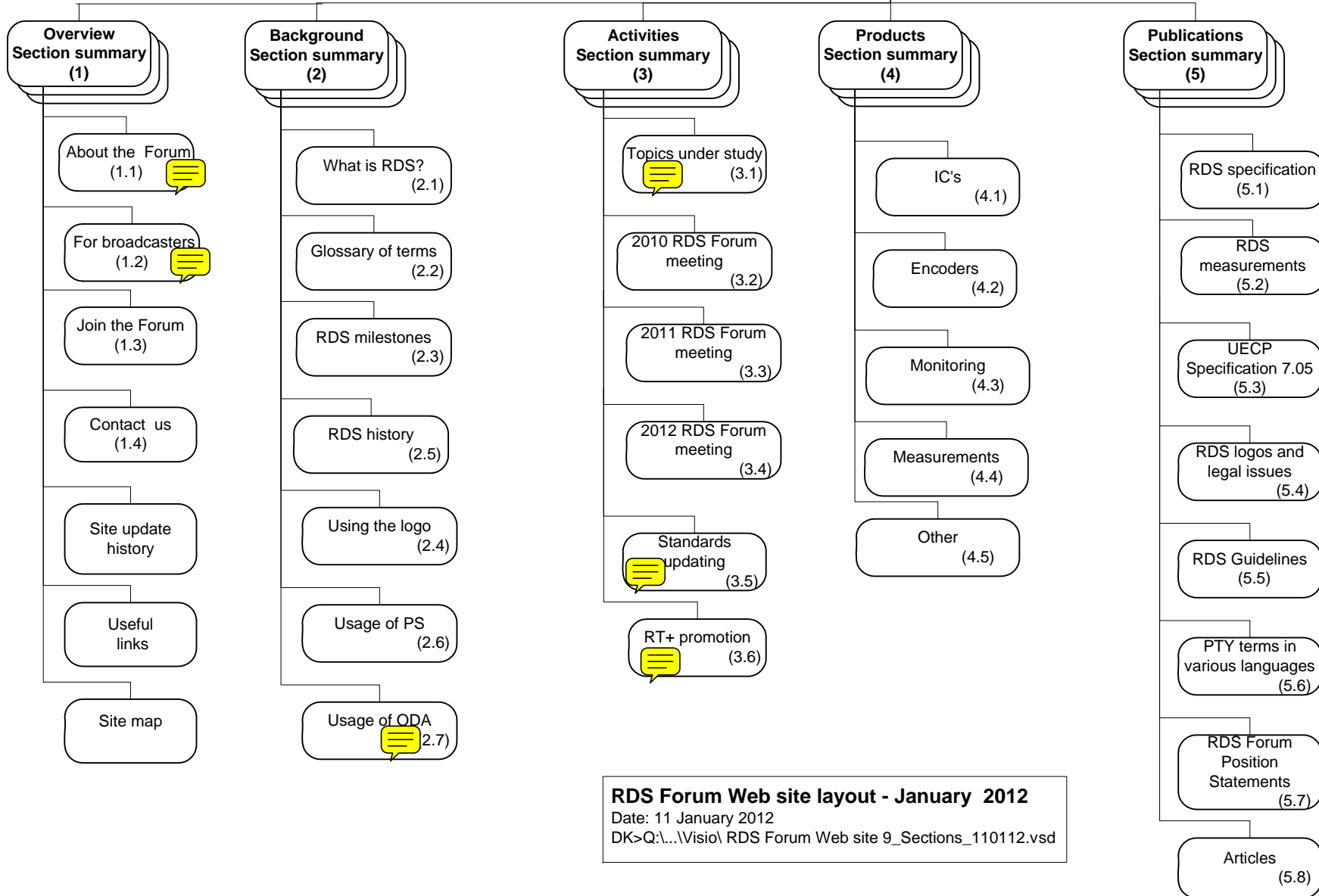
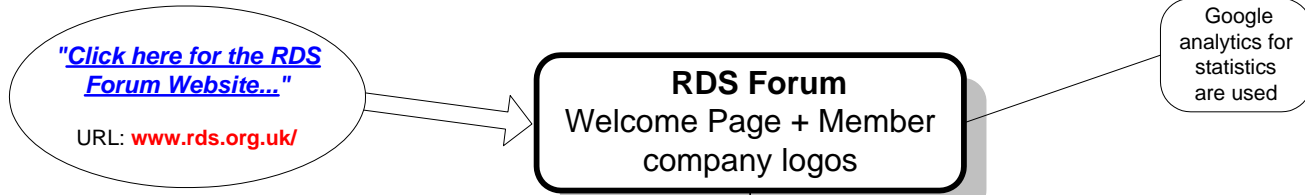
So in conclusion we hope you now have a much better understanding of the work of the RDS Forum and we hope to welcome you soon as a future member, or as a guest, at our next annual RDS Forum meeting on 11/12 June 2012.

Dietmar Kopitz
CEO RDS Forum Office, Geneva, Switzerland

Johnny Beerling,
Chairman RDS Forum

Attachments:

- 1. RDS Forum website map
- 2. List of RDS Forum Members
- 3. 2012 Member registration
- 4. Draft agenda for 2012 RDS Forum with a chart giving the workshop topics to be discussed
- 5. Meeting registration form to join as either a Member or a Guest



RDS Forum Web site layout - January 2012
Date: 11 January 2012
DK>Q:\...\Visio\ RDS Forum Web site 9_Sections_110112.vsd

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The present RDS Forum membership is:

Axel Technology (Italy), WORLDCAST SYSTEMS (France), Robert Bosch Car Multimedia (Germany), Catena Radio Design (Netherlands), Data FM Inc. (USA), Delphi Deutschland (Germany), Digita Ltd (Finland), HARMAN Automotive(Germany), Institut für Rundfunktechnik (Germany), J & K Car Electronics Corp. Europe (Germany), Mitsubishi Electric Automotive Europe (Sweden), Pioneer (Japan), OFCOM (UK), TomTom International, Sony Corp. (Japan), Swiss Broadcasting Corp. (SRG/SSR), Swisscom Broadcast AG, TDF - Télédiffusion de France, Visteon Eng. Services (UK), Swiss Private Radio Association, 2WCOM (Germany), QBIT (Germany), T&C Holding (Germany), NOKIA (Finland), SILICON LABS (UK & USA), Autosound Electronic (China/Hong Kong), WiWi Industries (China/Hong Kong), Hyundai Mobis (South Korea), LG Electronics (South Korea), International Datacasting(Netherlands), ItoM (Netherlands), Continental Automotive (France) and Swedish Radio

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RDS Forum 2012 membership registration form

Membership fee in EURO per delegate for the RDS Forum is € 2'000.— .
Swiss Members pay CHF 2'700.— for the year 2012.

Please register me as a member

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

**Please return this form by e-mail to dkopitz@compuserve.com or/and d_kopitz@bluewin.ch or fax to the RDS Forum Office in Geneva
Fax: +41.22.340 23 42**

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

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RDS FORUM R12/002_4
2012-01-13

Draft Agenda

26th RDS Forum Meeting, at Hotel Victoria in Glion/Montreux, Switzerland to be held on

11 June 2012 (11:00-18:00 hrs) and 12 June 2012 (09:00-16:30 hrs)

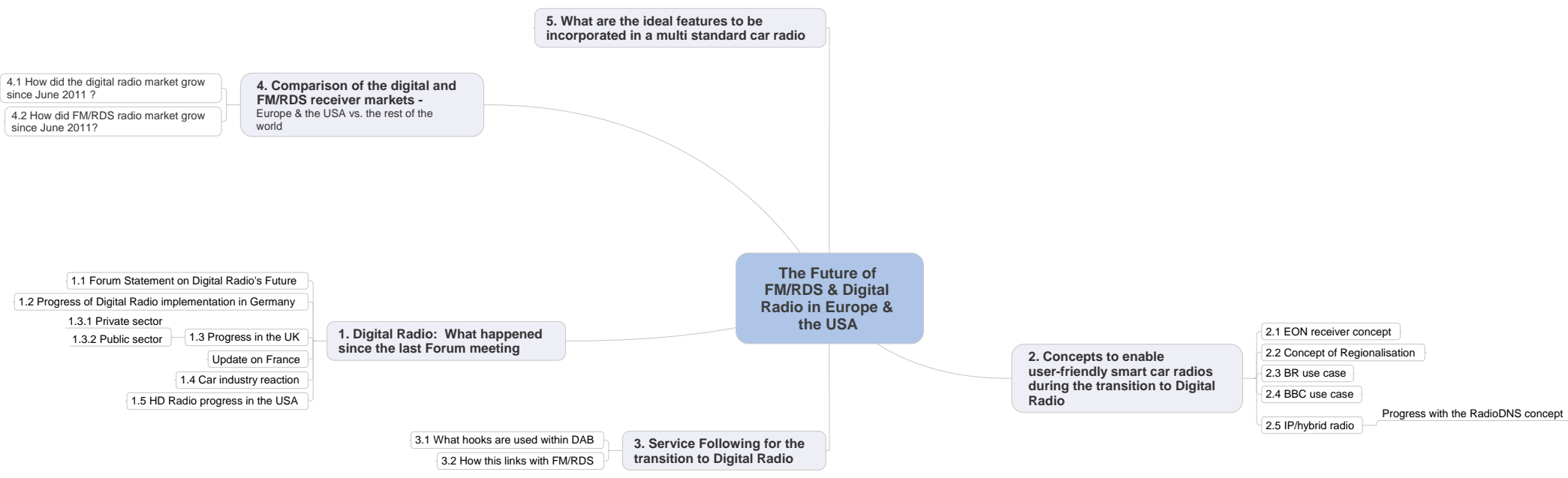
First day: 11 June 2012 (meeting starts at 11:00 hrs)

0	Chairman's Opening remarks, Chief Executive Officer's welcome	a) New members, guests, personal introduction of new participants b) Highlights from previous year' activity c) Administrative matters for the meeting		Johnny Beerling Dietmar Kopitz
1	Approval of Draft Agenda			Dietmar Kopitz
2	RDS Forum 2012 CD-ROM	Content / Use / Index		Dietmar Kopitz
3	Membership report	a) Changes since 2011		Dietmar Kopitz / Johnny Beerling
4	Approval of the Minutes of the 25 th RDS Forum meeting	Review of the agreed actions		Dietmar Kopitz/ Johnny Beerling
5	RDS Forum Web site www.rds.org.uk/			Dietmar Kopitz All
6	Organisational matters	a) Treasurers report for the year 2011 on income & expenditure b) Programme of activities and budget for 2012 – approval c) RDS Forum – Membership fee for the year 2013– approval		Dietmar Kopitz/ Frits de Jong
7	What is the Future of the RDS Forum	a) work to be done b) Actions to recruit more members		Johnny Beerling All
8	RDS Forum management team	Election		Johnny Beerling
9	Monday afternoon workshop			
9.1	Presentations after lunch			
13:00 hrs : Lunch on the Terrace – meeting resumes at 14:15 hrs				
RDS Forum Workshop (14:15 – 18:00 hrs) : The Future of FM/RDS and Digital Radio in Europe and the USA An update on the new developments since our last meeting Topics to be discussed: see attached chart				
19.30 hrs : Drinks and Dinner on the Terrace Plenary meeting resumes on day 2 at 09:00 hrs				

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Second day: 12 June 2012 (09:00 hrs start)

9.2	Previous day Workshop conclusion report	Communicate the Forum's conclusion		Frits de Jong
10	RDS-TMC	a) TISA b) Developments elsewhere c) Alternatives on Digital Radio d) Discussion		Amaury Cornelis Mark Saunders Frits de Jong All
11	Liaison with the IEC - RDS standard updating - RDS measurements	- Corrections for Annex E, P and Q; updating of EON for PTY NEWS and WEATHER - Correction of IEC 62634 as a follow-up of proposal from Joop Beunders (R11/048_3)		Dietmar Kopitz/
12	Liaison with the ITU - Activities and decisions of interest to the Forum			Petko Kantchev
13	Liaison with the EBU and the NAB			Johnny Beerling Dietmar Kopitz All
10:45 hrs : Coffee break – meeting resumes at 11:15 hrs				
14	RDS-RT+ progress	Status review		Dietmar Kopitz All
15	RDS-PS	Members invited to report on steps taken earlier, e.g. France – Opinion or decision of CSA after the trial		All
16	RDS-ODA	ODA registrations report		Dietmar Kopitz
17	RDS UECP updating	Any action required?		All
18	Progress on enhancing RDS: The xRDS project Discussion	Forum position to be developed (Support or reject the approach)		Attila Ladanyi All
13:00 hrs : Lunch on the Terrace – meeting resumes at 14:30 hrs				
Afternoon: Final session - meeting resumes at 14:30 hrs				
19	RDS Guidelines updating	Status review		Dietmar Kopitz All
20	RDS – worldwide / RDS implementation responses	Continued updating		All
21	RDS IPR issues	Members to report of any IPR challenges, they are aware of		All
22	Date and venue for 2013 meeting	a) Date and duration (mid-June?) b) Venue		All
Meeting closes at 16:30 hrs				



26th RDS Forum

Hotel Victoria in Glion / Montreux (Switzerland), 11/12 June 2012

(RDS Forum: 11:00 – 18:00 h on 11 June and 09:00 – 16:00 h on 12 June)

REGISTRATION FORM

Please return this form to: Fax: +41 22 340 23 43

Deadline: 30 April 2012

Dietmar Kopitz
RDS Forum Office
 Av. des Tilleuls 3-B 101/2
 CH – 1203 Geneva
 Tel: +41.22.340 23 42

-
- I shall attend the RDS Forum 2012
 I shall participate in the excursion on 10 June, departure 13:30 h (programme yet unknown)
 I shall not attend the meeting
-

If you require the arranged accommodation (see details below), please send Hotel Victoria a copy of this registration form:

Hotel Victoria (single room)
CH – 1823 Glion on Montreux

(double room)

Tel: +41 21 962 82 82

Fax: +41 21 962 82 92

Arrival date:.....

Departure date:

I have made my own hotel booking in.....

Name.....

Organisation.....

Address:

Telephone:..... **Fax:**

E-mail:..... **Signature:**

Specially arranged prices for your full stay with Hotel Victoria and Hotel Righi for participants of this meeting:

Single room with breakfast per night: CHF 200.- for Hotel Victoria and CHF 180.- for Hotel Righi /
 supplement for double occupancy CHF 100.-

Full board supplement (optional and only compulsory on 11 June for RDS Forum participants) CHF 75.-
 and CHF 65.- for second person

Supplementary lunch or dinner option: CHF 55.- (applies when full board option is not used and only lunch or dinner is taken at Hotel Victoria)

All rooms have bath or shower and WC.

A lodging tax of CHF 4.- per night and person is charged in addition.
