

What Topics are being dealt with in the Forum

This presentation highlights the issues
currently under study

- **The RDS Forum monitors RDS implementation worldwide and the information is exchanged**
- **For Europe, the implemented RDS features in each country are collected**
- **For the USA – the RBDS vs. RDS differences are identified**
- **Broadcasters, transmission operators and regulators are contacted, if RDS features are incorrectly used**

- **Information on using Digital Radio in Europe and the USA is exchanged**
- **There is monitoring of the standards for**
 - DAB/DAB+
 - DMB
 - DRM/DRM+
 - HD-Radio
- **Harmonisation has top priority where ever possible**
 - Example: RT+ and DL+
- **Exchange info on the future of FM & RDS**
 - Why and how long FM & RDS are still needed is investigated

- **Optimise FM network performance**
 - Programme and Service Following are key issues
- **Help the transition to Digital Radio**
 - Focus on RDS features also used by Digital Radio
 - Make sure that well established RDS features are also used by Digital Radio
 - Improve the cross-referencing from RDS to Digital Radio
 - Study use cases caused by the slow transition
- **Focus on mobile usage in Europe**
 - Optimise performance in hybrid broadcast networks
 - **Hybrid** means that the same programme is distributed over FM/RDS and Digital Radio
 - NOTE: Digital Radio implementation in Europe progresses only very slowly

- **RDS Forum 2010 studies a proposal to enhance**
 - PTY and EON-PTY for NEWS and WEATHER

- **Study enhanced RDS – eRDS**
 - It may be possible to increase the RDS data capacity by a factor of two or three
 - A proposal was presented at the annual meeting in June 2010

- **The UECP* was created by the EBU**
 - Aim: Help broadcasters save money on implementing RDS in large networks
 - RDS encoders from different manufacturers can be used in the same network
 - With the UECP broadcasters can use encoders from different encoder manufacturers within the same distribution network
 - The encoder manufacturers in the RDS Forum fully support the UECP in its latest version
 - The RDS Forum regularly updates the UECP
 - Version 7.05 was just issued in 2010
 - All RDS features and ODAs are supported

* **UECP: Universal Encoder Communication Protocol**

- **Large majority of broadcasters still use only basic RDS features**
 - There is an attitude that RDS works without any problems
 - In reality – a lot of effort is needed to achieve a perfect implementation
- Often, programme associated data are only provided over Digital Radio
 - Sometimes that is done to demonstrate the superiority of Digital Radio
- Often, RDS can provide equivalent features

- RT & RT+ promotion is important for the Forum
 - Titles and Artist names can be displayed
 - Link to radio programme home page, etc can be provided
 - Pursue objective for full implementation as now standardised in IEC 62106 ed.2 / Annex P
- Broadcasters can then use Multimedia functionality with RDS on (mobile) radio receivers connected to Internet
 - Examples: iPod nano (2009) and devices using the new
 - open source Symbian Three Platform (2010)
- Find a broadcaster interested to test eRT
 - as now standardised in IEC 62106 ed.2 / Annex Q
 - eRT uses an **enhanced** character set suitable for all EU countries
 - for Western Europe and the USA normal RT is sufficient
 - RT+ can be used with both, either RT or eRT !

- **The success of RDS sometimes generates unexpected claims**
 - Members of the Forum often refuse successfully unjustified claims
 - They exchange experience over the defence arguments
 - May seek collectively legal advice
 - Example: RDS Forum won a court case regarding totally unjustified EON trademark claims

- **For broadcasters > EBU & US NRSC / NAB**
 - They set the scene for the future of radio
 - RBDS update is in the process of being harmonised with NRSC
- **For standards > IEC**
 - RDS Forum Office is a Member of Electrosuisse
 - RDS Forum helps to maintain RDS standard
 - Seeks new IEC standard on RDS measurements
- **For radio frequency usage > ITU-R**
 - RDS Forum helps to update ITU-R BS.Rec 643-2 dealing with RDS
 - This action requires harmonization with RBDS
- **For the TMC implementation over RDS-ODA**
 - TISA

- **All relevant standards**
 - RDS & Digital Radio
- **All relevant recommendations**
- **All relevant guidelines**
- **All relevant publications**
- **All relevant studies**
- **All relevant new developments**
- **Keep everything in a data base**
 - Provide everything on **annual CD-ROM** to Forum Members
 - Maintain document index since 1999
 - Maintain list of all documents since 1999
 - Maintain RDS Forum web site

- **Exchange information regarding the future of radio**
 - The RDS Forum represents a superb industry contact network
 - Most Members know each others well from the annual Forum meetings
- **Take coordinated action on requesting correct usage of RDS**
 - Examples:
 - Position paper of 2009 on Programme Service name implementation (PS)
 - TMC: Correct Location code referencing under ODA (in association with TISA)