

**RDS Forum – the association of RDS users**



**The RDS Forum  
turned**

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## 2018 – Not too late to join the Forum. Please consider :

For over a quarter of a century the RDS Forum has offered to broadcasters, transmission providers, regulators and radio equipment manufacturers a superb professional contact network for all involved with Radio Broadcasting.

Since the RDS specification was first published in 1984, billions of radio receivers utilizing RDS have been produced across all product sectors – portable, personal, in-car, and incorporated into mobile phones. Together these radios provide confirmation of the station being listened to, song and artist details via textual display, fully automated tuning to ensure optimum reception, traffic information via the pan-European TP/TA system, and provides the means to transmit real-time traffic data used by millions of in-car and portable Satellite Navigation systems worldwide which utilize RDS-TMC.

The radio landscape has steadily been changing with FM and AM analogue transmissions being joined by digital transmission on DAB in Europe and HD Radio in North America, and worldwide radio is also available on-line.

However, FM radio will remain a very popular radio technology everywhere co-existing with digital radio and the internet for the foreseeable future. Supporting this co-existence has been one of the primary tasks undertaken by the Forum over recent years. The Forum studied how to best link national, regional, sub-regional and local radio programmes across a hybrid (analogue and digital) radio landscape. Currently the RDS technology is in the process of being adapted to what mobile FM/RDS radio receivers need today and in the future – linking seamlessly across the different delivery platforms - i.e. Analogue, Digital and Internet. Thanks to the high-level of expertise within the RDS Forum membership and its cooperation with other fora, a huge experience and knowledge-base has been acquired. As a result, guidelines have been issued and will continue to be developed as a valuable support in design and implementation for the benefit of all Forum members involved.

In particular, since 2015, the Forum has been adapting the RDS technology to make it relevant for at least the next thirty years using the full experience gained in the past. Support for all character sets, extended frequency bands and the ability to transfer files have all been added whilst the key objective of maintaining full backwards compatibility with existing broadcasts and receivers has been fully achieved.

The result of the work during 2015 - 2017 has led to the creation of the new RDS specification – ‘RDS2’ - the innovative RDS enhancement developed by many RDS Forum members. Its first priority was the adaptation of the over-the-air RDS specification and now in 2018 this work will be completed with the update the UECP, the Universal Encoder Communication Protocol, the means by which Service Providers and Broadcasters communicate with the RDS Encoders. This process is well advanced following a successful demonstration of the end-to-end chain at the second RDS2 Info Day at Radio France in November 2016.

For RDS2, it was necessary to completely re-structure the worldwide RDS standard IEC 62106, which was fully achieved during 2017, culminating with the submission of the newly updated RDS/RDS2 standard draft from the RDS Forum to the IEC TC 100.

The new 'RDS2' has now been recognized as an International Standard by the IEC. In 2018 this standard adaptation will also include RBDS, an entirely compatible variant of RDS, used in North America. As well as having several individual RDS Forum members from North America, the RDS Forum closely collaborates with the NAB and the RBDS subcommittee of the US NRSC.

The whole concept and the process for this adaptation had been agreed by the RDS Forum in 2015. The ODA (Open Data Application) concept will be even-more fundamental for RDS2 and forms a solid foundation on which very innovative added value services can easily be created. An all-new enhancement for RDS2 - media object transfers - called ROT - allows files, images etc. to be transferred. This new 'Object Transfer' feature has already been demonstrated and presented in a public meeting during the first RDS2 Info Day held in November 2015 in Berlin, where station logos were transmitted, enhancing the visual experience for radio users. RDS Forum experts on-hand explained to seventy radio professionals from fourteen countries the new developments and possibilities that RDS2 will be able to offer.

RDS2 is not only data over-the-air, but a complete platform that will connect FM broadcasting with the Internet and thus offer hybrid radio. This may include FM radio apps for smart phones and further support for the 'connected car' concept.

All these new developments from the RDS Forum will play a predominant role for RDS2 in the future.

Most important for you and your company: RDS2 is IPR free as it was jointly developed by the RDS Forum members to be an open technology just as 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 2018 as a member and contribute and influence these 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 twenty-five years ago in 1993 as a self-funded non-profit organization, formally registered in Geneva, Switzerland. As a worldwide industry association of public interest, it is exempted from taxation in Switzerland.

As well as regular updates to members from the Forum office, one annual meeting of the full Forum is held, always in May or June, at Hotel Victoria in Glion/Montreux, Switzerland. This location can easily be reached by train from Geneva airport (see [www.victoria-glion.ch](http://www.victoria-glion.ch)). The RDS Forum has met there during the last twenty years as this was always considered as an excellent meeting and networking location by the Forum.

**The next RDS Forum meeting will be on 28 and 29 May 2018.**

For more information, see

<http://www.rds.org.uk/>

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## **RDS Forum 2018 membership registration form**

Annual membership fee in Swiss franc per delegate for the RDS Forum is CHF 2'900.- (EUR 2600.-).

After your registration you will be invoiced in 2018-Q1. Payment is due in 2018-Q2.

**The next annual meeting of the RDS Forum is scheduled on 28/29 May 2018 at Glion / Montreux, Switzerland.**

**Please register me as a member**

\_\_\_\_\_Surname

\_\_\_\_\_First Name

\_\_\_\_\_Company / Organisation

\_\_\_\_\_Address (1)

\_\_\_\_\_Address (2)

\_\_\_\_\_Telephone

\_\_\_\_\_E-mail

**Please return this form to the RDS Forum Office in Geneva by e-mail  
to [rdsforum@bluewin.ch](mailto:rdsforum@bluewin.ch)**