Here are 16 brief reasons that explain to you quickly the importance of RDS

1. The second edition of the totally updated RDS standard was published in August 2009 as IEC 62106 Ed.2:2009.

2. RDS was initially developed by the European Broadcasting Union (EBU) which published the first publication 25 years ago in 1984.

3. Then RDS became in 1990 a European standard of CENELEC as EN 50067, updated twice with new functions being compatibly added in 1992 and 1998.

4. One of the important new features being added is the Open Data Application ODA by which new functions can compatibly be added without disturbing the already existing RDS receivers.

5. In 1993 RBDS became a national US standard of the NRSC, adapted to North American broadcast practise. RBDS remained totally compatible with RDS technology so that the same mass-produced integrated circuits could be used for both, RDS and RBDS.

6. In 1999 the EN 50067 was replaced by the international IEC standard IEC 62106.

7. Around 2005, RDS FM radio functionality became part of many portable devices like mobile phones and music players.

8. By 2009 the total number of RDS radios made so far exceeds by far now the one billion mark.

9. The current annual growth rate is far over 600 million new devices with RDS enabled radios made each year.

10. The mass production of the integrated circuits available for RDS has led to very low prices: If bought in huge quantities, the price for one chip with an FM radio and an RDS decoder may come close to one USD.

11. RDS has also become very important for the distribution of traffic messages, spoken and language independent coded as an ODA, widely known and used as Traffic Message Channel TMC and separately standardised by ISO.

12. RDS-TMC is nowadays implemented in many million navigational devices.

13. RDS has totally replaced the ARI system, which was switched off during the years 2004/2006.

14. Several countries use also RDS as an ODA for an emergency warning system.

15. The most important functionality of RDS is automatic tuning of FM radios in transmitter networks broadcasting the same radio programmes and for this to function correctly, the relevant RDS features Programme Identification PI, Programme Service name PS and list of Alternative Frequencies AF must be used correctly, which is not always trivial.

16. RDS is increasingly used for tagging of music with title and artist information, using RadioText and RadioTextPlus. Interesting receiver implementations are in this particular respect the new iPod nano 5G and 6G and the new Nokia mobile phones N8, E7, C7 and C6.