RDS Forum – what it does and why it is needed

This presentation highlights the attractions for manufacturers, broadcasters and service providers

- **RDS Forum Members only pay a very small annual fee**
  - less than many comparable organisations will charge
  - The 2024 RDS Forum member annual fee is CHF 3500.-

- **Exchange experience on using RDS correctly**
  - With particular emphasis on car radio reception

- **Receive relevant information on the further development of RDS and all Digital Radio technologies**

- **One major RDS Forum objective is**
  - Make RDS2 applications happen

- **RDS Forum is constituted as an independent Member funded not-for-profit association**
- **RDS Forum was originally founded by the European Broadcasting Union EBU**
  - The industry association has been independent from the EBU since 1999
- **RDS Forum Office situated in Geneva with easy links for coordination with**
  - IEC and ITU
- **Next annual meeting will be in Geneva:**
  - 21 and 22 October 2024
  - Guests are welcome: The conference guest fee is 200 CHF

- **RDS already has been successfully used in a wide range of radio types:**

    - In mobile phones
        - FM/RDS radio was a feature of most mobile phones in Europe before Smartphones appeared
        - In 2024 Nokia is back with a mobile phone that has FM radio

    - In car radios where automatic tuning is important

    - In portable radios where station name helps

    - In home radios where RT is an added feature

- **RDS/FM radio annual chip market sales are**
    - over 1 billion units worldwide
    - Bought in very large quantities, the prices of these chips are very low (still over 10 times lower than DAB radio chips)

The RDS FM market is really very big

- The market has virtually exploded for RDS

- **Billions RDS/FM radios have been sold by now**
  - Compare this to DAB+: So far just about 125 million radios were sold worldwide

  - The market for FM/RDS radios is about 100 times bigger than the market for Digital radios

RDS FORUM 2024

- **Maintain and develop further the RDS Standard**

  - The latest version IEC 62106 Parts 1-6, 9 and 10 is from 2018 - 2023

- **Update RDS technology to today's requirements**

  - With enhanced data transmission capacity over RDS2 and backwards compatibly

  - RDS2 offers Station logo, Slideshow and Link to IP streaming

- **Create updated Implementation Guidelines**

  - Latest version is from 2024

- **Liaise with Standardisation Organisations on RDS, the IEC and ITU**

  - ITU Recommendation BS 643-4 on RDS was last updated in 12/2022

- **Maintain the ODA* registry**

  * RDS - Open Data Application for legacy RDS and for RDS2

RDS FORUM 2024

- **Link with other Digital Radio technologies**

  - DAB+, HD radio and DRM

- **Study all features that are common in RDS, DAB and DRM and contribute to harmonize them**

- **Provide liaison between broadcasters, manufacturers, service providers and regulators**

- **There is one annual meeting of Members**

- **All other work is done by e-mail**

- **All documents are in PDF format**

- **Each year a CD-ROM is produced for the RDS Forum Members with all updated reference documentation published since 1999**

- **This is an important manufacturers' task**

  - Sometimes wrong implementations are discovered during these activities

  - These mistakes degrade the RDS performance

- **Then the RDS Forum is of a real benefit**

  - The issues can be discussed in the Forum

  - The superb contact network very often helped to remedy the mistakes

  - Also, broadcasters not being Forum Members directly benefit from this activity

- **Broadcasters, industry, service providers…**

- **Isn't FM radio still the most important medium for your listeners ?**

  - RDS technology keeps it all going !!!
    - It is specifically designed for radio on the move
    - Can deliver perfect radio reception in the car

  - **If you have not yet had any problems with RDS**

    - **Then this is because the RDS Forum has been so pro-active !**

RDS FORUM 2024

- **You can still use RDS encoders from different suppliers in the same transmitter network**
  - You can upgrade your RDS network using the technologies of today
    - Internet and satellite RDS signal distribution

    This is because the RDS Forum maintains the
    - **UECP (Universal Encoder Communication Protocol)**
    - now standardized as IEC 62106-10, including commands for RDS2

  - Encoder manufacturers in the RDS Forum adhere to the UECP and they try to have solutions to meet your requirements

- **As soon as possible you should join the RDS professionals in the Forum**

  - The small annual fee you pay, will give you back great value through sharing the RDS experience and solving the RDS problems of today with the most superb contact network of RDS experts in the world

  - Nothing could be easier and more cost-effective

  - Your RDS technology will be maintained on the highest technical level, and you are never left alone with your RDS problems

  - Countries new to RDS can now share the long-established know-how. Thus, for them to join is even more important !

  - Annual RDS Forum meetings are open also to non-members for a small guest fee – for the RDS Forum 2024 meeting only CHF 200

- **Thank you for your attention**

- **We hope that we have convinced you of the importance to be part of the RDS Forum**

- **You can join at any time**

- **How ? – Just contact us**

  - rdsforum@bluewin.ch