LMK
Landeszentrale für
Medien und Kommunikation
Rheinland-Pfalz

Press Release
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Digital Radio in FM-Band

Start of DRM+ Trials in Kaiserslautern, Germany

Ludwigshafen, 29. Februar 2008

Ludwigshafen, Germany – *The DRM+ trials in Hanover are just finishing and the next DRM+ trials will start in another German city, Kaiserslautern. On 1 March 2008, the University of Applied Sciences Kaiserslautern will broadcast, on the FM frequency 87.6 MHz, in DRM+ digital quality from its own experimental radio station to the city of Kaiserslautern. The Federal Network Agency and the DRM Associate Members University of Applied Sciences Kaiserslautern and the German State Media Authority of Rhineland-Palatinate (LMK) will carry out DRM+ field tests. For almost 60 years there has been analogue FM radio in Germany; now, with DRM+, a new digital era is beginning.*

DRM+ is a broadcasting system which allows FM stations in the frequency range 87,5 MHz to 108 MHz to become digital. In the long transition period from analogue to digital FM radio, new digital DRM+ stations are envisaged for the now overcrowded FM band. That is one of the big advantages of DRM+ digital radio.

In co-operation with LMK, the University of Applied Sciences Kaiserslautern and the German Federal Network Agency will carry out field measurements in Kaiserslautern and the surrounding countryside. The measurements will determine which technical values could be the most suitable for the new DRM+ broadcasting stations so that no interference is caused to existing FM stations. Other tests will determine whether an FM analogue radio broadcaster can broadcast the same programme in digital quality with an additional programme through DRM+.

These tests are expected to prove that DRM+ offers clear added value for the listener by offering not only an uninterrupted service for both portable and mobile reception but also excellent audio quality. In May 2008 it is expected that there will be radio transmissions in DRM+ which will give exceptional digital quality for the listener.

The first results of these DRM+ field tests will be presented during a dedicated symposium on Thursday, 29th of May, in Kaiserslautern. Anyone who is interested in attending can register now by sending an email to drm-symposium-kl@drm-radio-kl.eu.

For further information on the trial, click under www.drm-radio-kl.eu.

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About DRM and DRM +
Digital Radio Mondiale™ (DRM) is the digital broadcasting system for the broadcasting bands below 30MHz (long, medium and short wave). It has been endorsed by the ITU, and is standardised as ETSI ES 201 980. While DRM currently covers the broadcasting bands below 30 MHz, the DRM consortium is extending the system to the broadcasting bands up to 108 MHz. This system extension has the internal project name DRM+.

DRM has near-FM sound quality plus the ease-of-use that comes from digital transmissions, combined with long range and low power consumption. A continuously growing number of commercial, public, international, national and local broadcasters are already broadcasting DRM transmissions into Europe and North America, Mexico, Russia, China, India and other regions. Multi-standard, DRM-capable consumer radios were introduced and can be purchased online at www.t-online.shop.de, www.igear.com, www.rebelio.com. Further information on DRM™ is available from http://www.drm.org.

About LMK
State Media Authorities in Germany are responsible for the licensing and supervision as well as the development of commercial radio and television broadcasting in Germany. Commercial broadcasting stations have existed since the middle of the eighties. The Interstate Treaty on Broadcasting (Rundfunkstaatsvertrag – RStV) from 1987 set the course for the "dual broadcasting system", the side-by-side existence of public and commercial broadcasting. Since then the provisions of the Interstate Treaty on Broadcasting have been modified several times.

DRM Members
Commercial Radio Australia (Australia); TDP, TDP Radio, RTBF (Belgium);Nautel Ltd., Radio Canada International/CBC (Canada); Academy of Broadcasting Science of China, Communications University of China, Southeast University Nanjing (China); RIZ Transmitters (Croatia); HFCC (Czech Republic);Aalborg University (Denmark); ESPOL, HCJB Global (Ecuador); Digita Oy, Kymenlaakso Polytechnik (Finland); CCETT, DIGIDIA, DRF Committee, Radio France, SNRL – National Union of Free Radios, TDF, Thomson Broadcast & Multimedia (France); ADDX, APR, Atmel Germany GmbH, Deutsche Welle, DeutschlandRadio, DLM, Sender Europa 1, Fraunhofer IIS, Georg-Simon-Ohm – University of Applied Sciences Nuremberg, Harman/Becker Automotive Systems GmbH, IRT, LMK Rheinland-Pfalz, Medienanstalt Sachsen-Anhalt, Micronas GmbH, Nero AG, Panasonic Automotive Systems Europe, Robert Bosch GmbH, Sony Deutschland GmbH, SWR Südwestrundfunk, TRANSRADIO SenderSysteme Berlin AG, T-Systems Media&Broadcast GmbH, University of Applied Sciences Kaiserslautern, University of Applied Sciences Merseburg, University of Hanover, University of Kaiserslautern, University of Kassel, University of Ulm, VPRT (Germany); Antenna Hungaria, National Communications Authority Hungary (Hungary); Analog Devices (India), Basamad College, Tehran (Iran); RAI Way, ST Microelectronics (Italy); Hitachi Kokusai Electric Inc., NEC Corporation, NHK (Japan); Telecommunications Technology Association (Korea); Libyan Jamahiriya Broadcasting (Libya); Broadcasting Center Europe (Luxembourg); Asia Pacific Broadcasting Union (Malaysia); La Red de Radiodifusoras y Televisoras Educativas y Culturales de México (Mexico); Agentschap Telecom, CATENA Radio Design, NXP Semiconductors, OLON, Radio Netherlands, Stiching DigiRadio, Technical University Delft (Netherlands); Radio New Zealand International (New Zealand); Voice of Nigeria (Nigeria); Senter for Kristen Kringkasting,Telenor/Norkring (Norway); RTP-Rádio e Televisão de Portugal (Portugal); RTRN/Voice of Russia (Russia); Government of Catalonia, Cadena SER - Sociedad Española de Radiodifusión, Universidad del Pais Vasco (Spain); Coding Technologies (Sweden); EBU, International Committee of the Red Cross, ITU, VSP - Verband Schweizer Privatradios (Switzerland); Arab States Broadcasting Union (Tunisia); BBC, Christian Vision, Digital One Ltd., RadioScape Plc., VT Communications, WRN (U.K.); Broadcast Electronics,

Inc., Dolby Laboratories, Inc., Dolby Laboratories Licensing Corp., Continental Electronics Corp., Harris Corp., Broadcast Communications Division - IBB/VOA, National Association of Short-wave Broadcasters, TCI International, Inc., Texas Instruments, Inc., Via Licensing Corp. (U.S.A.) and Vatican Radio (Vatican City). # # #

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