

**Terrestrial Trunked Radio (TETRA);  
Direct Mode Operation (DMO);  
Part 6: Security**

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## Foreword

This European Standard (Telecommunications series) has been produced by ETSI Technical Committee Terrestrial Trunked Radio (TETRA), and is now submitted for the ETSI standards One-step Approval Procedure.

The present document is part 6 of a multi-part deliverable covering Direct Mode Operation, as identified below:

- Part 1: "General network design";
- Part 2: "Radio aspects";
- Part 3: "Mobile Station to Mobile Station (MS-MS) Air Interface (AI) protocol";
- Part 4: "Type 1 repeater air interface";
- Part 5: "Gateway air interface";
- Part 6: "Security";**
- Part 7: "Type 2 repeater air interface";
- Part 8: "Protocol Implementation Conformance Statement (PICS) proforma specification";
- Part 10: "Managed Direct Mode Operation (M-DMO)".

NOTE: Parts 7, 8 and 10 of this multi-part deliverable is of status "historical" and will not be updated according to this version of the standard.

### Proposed national transposition dates

Date of latest announcement of this EN (doa):	3 months after ETSI publication
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# 1 Scope

The present document defines the Terrestrial Trunked Radio system (TETRA) Direct Mode of operation. It specifies the basic Air Interface (AI), the interworking between Direct Mode Groups via Repeaters and interworking with the TETRA Trunked system via Gateways. It also specifies the security aspects in TETRA Direct Mode and the intrinsic services that are supported in addition to the basic bearer and teleservices.

The present document describes the security mechanisms in TETRA Direct Mode. It provides mechanisms for confidentiality of control signalling and user speech and data at the AI. It also provided some implicit authentication as a member of a group by knowledge of a shared secret encryption key.

The use of AI encryption gives both confidentiality protection against eavesdropping, and some implicit authentication.

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# 2 References

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## 2.1 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of the present document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For non-specific references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

- [1] ETSI EN 300 392-2: "Terrestrial Trunked Radio (TETRA); Voice plus Data (V+D); Part 2: Air Interface (AI)".
- [2] ISO 7498-2: "Information processing systems - Open Systems Interconnection - Basic Reference Model - Part 2: Security Architecture".
- [3] ETSI EN 300 396-2: "Terrestrial Trunked Radio (TETRA); Technical requirements for Direct Mode Operation (DMO); Part 2: Radio aspects".
- [4] ETSI EN 300 392-7: "Terrestrial Trunked Radio (TETRA); Voice plus Data (V+D); Part 7: Security".
- [5] ETSI EN 300 396-3: "Terrestrial Trunked Radio (TETRA); Technical requirements for Direct Mode Operation (DMO); Part 3: Mobile Station to Mobile Station (MS-MS) Air Interface (AI) protocol".
- [6] ETSI TS 100 392-15: "Terrestrial Trunked Radio (TETRA); Voice plus Data (V+D); Part 15: TETRA frequency bands, duplex spacings and channel numbering".

- [7] ETSI EN 302 109: "Terrestrial Trunked Radio (TETRA); Security; Synchronization mechanism for end-to-end encryption".
- [8] ETSI EN 300 396-5: "Terrestrial Trunked Radio (TETRA); Technical requirements for Direct Mode Operation (DMO); Part 5: Gateway air interface".
- [9] ETSI EN 300 396-4: "Terrestrial Trunked Radio (TETRA); Technical requirements for Direct Mode Operation (DMO); Part 4: Type 1 repeater air interface".

## 2.2 Informative references

The following referenced documents are not essential to the use of the present document but they assist the user with regard to a particular subject area. For non-specific references, the latest version of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

Not applicable.

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## 3 Definitions and abbreviations

### 3.1 Definitions

For the purposes of the present document, the following terms and definitions apply:

**air interface encryption state:** status of encryption in a call (on or off)

**call transaction:** all of the functions associated with a complete unidirectional transmission of information during a call

NOTE: A call is made up of one or more call transactions. In a simplex call these call transactions are sequential. (See EN 300 396-3 [5]).

**carrier number:** integer, N, used in TETRA to represent the frequency of the RF carrier

NOTE: See TS 100 392-15 [6].

**cipher key:** value that is used to determine the transformation of plain text to cipher text in a cryptographic algorithm

**cipher text:** data produced through the use of encipherment

NOTE: The semantic content of the resulting data is not available (ISO 7498-2 [2]).

**decipherment:** reversal of a corresponding reversible encipherment

NOTE: See ISO 7498-2 [2].

**Direct Mode Operation (DMO):** mode of simplex operation where mobile subscriber radio units may communicate using radio frequencies which may be monitored by, but which are outside the control of, the TETRA TMO network

NOTE: DM operation is performed without intervention of any base station. (See EN 300 396-3 [5]).

**DMO-net:** number of DMO MSs communicating together and using common cryptographic parameters

**encipherment:** cryptographic transformation of data to produce cipher text

NOTE: See ISO 7498-2 [2].

**encryption cipher key:** cipher key used as input to the KSG, derived from an address specific cipher key and randomly varied per channel using algorithm TB6

**end-to-end encryption:** encryption within or at the source end system, with the corresponding decryption occurring only within or at the destination end system

**explicit authentication:** transaction initiated and completed specifically to demonstrate knowledge of a shared secret where the secret is not revealed

**implicit authentication:** authenticity demonstrated by proof of knowledge of a shared secret where that demonstration is a by-product of another function

**key stream:** pseudo random stream of symbols that is generated by a KSG for encipherment and decipherment

**Key Stream Generator (KSG):** cryptographic algorithm which produces a stream of binary digits which can be used for encipherment and decipherment

NOTE: The initial state of the KSG is determined by the initialization value.

**Key Stream Segment (KSS):** key stream of arbitrary length

**plain text:** unencrypted source data

NOTE: The semantic content is available.

**proprietary algorithm:** algorithm which is the intellectual property of a legal entity

**SCK-set:** collective term for the group of 32 SCKs associated with each Individual TETRA Subscriber Identity

**SCK-subset:** collection of SCKs from an SCK-set, with SCKNs in numerical sequence, where every SCK in the subset is associated with one or more different GSSIs

NOTE: Multiple SCK subsets have corresponding SCKs associated with the same GSSIs.

**Static Cipher Key (SCK):** predetermined cipher key that may be used to provide confidentiality in class DM-2-A, DM-2-B and DM-2-C systems with a corresponding algorithm

**synchronization value:** sequence of symbols that is transmitted to the receiving terminal to synchronize the KSG in the receiving terminal with the KSG in the transmitting terminal

**synchronous stream cipher:** encryption method in which a cipher text symbol completely represents the corresponding plain text symbol

NOTE: The encryption is based on a key stream that is independent of the cipher text. In order to synchronize the KSGs in the transmitting and the receiving terminal synchronization data is transmitted separately.

**TETRA algorithm:** mathematical description of a cryptographic process used for either of the security processes authentication or encryption

**Trunked Mode Operation (TMO):** operations of TETRA specified in EN 300 392-2 [1]

## 3.2 Abbreviations

For the purposes of the present document, the following abbreviations apply:

ACK	ACKnowledgement
AI	Air Interface
CK	Cypher Key
CN	Carrier Number
DM	Direct Mode
DMAC	Direct Mode Media Access Control
DMC	A layer 2 Service Access Point (DMC-SAP)
DMCC	Direct Mode Call Control
DMO	Direct Mode Operation
DSB	Direct Mode Synchronisation Burst
ECK	Encryption Cipher Key
EDSI	Encrypted Direct-mode Short Identity
EDSI-URTC	Encrypted DMO Short Identity-Usage Restriction Type Confidentiality
EUIV	EDSI-URTC Initialisation Vector
FN	Frame Number
GSSI	Group Short Subscriber Identity



GTSI	Group TETRA Subscriber Identity
KAG	Key Association Group
KSG	Key Stream Generator
KSS	Key Stream Segment
MAC	Medium Access Control
MDE	Message Dependent Elements
MNI	Mobile Network Identity
MS	Mobile Station
OTAR	Over The Air Rekeying
PDU	Protocol Data Unit
PICS	Protocol Implementation Conformance Statement
REP	REpeater
RF	Radio Frequency
SAP	Service Access Point
SCH	Signalling CHannel
SCH/F	Full SCH
SCH/H	Half SCH
SCH/S	Synchronization SCH
SCK	Static Cipher Key
SCKN	Static Cipher Key Number
SCK-VN	SCK-Version Number
SDS	Short Data Service
SDU	Service Data Unit
SSI	Short Subscriber Identity
STCH	STolen CHannel
SwMI	Switching and Management Infrastructure
SYNC	SYNChronization
TCH	Traffic CHannel
TDMA	Time Division Media Access
TMO	Trunked Mode Operation
TN	Timeslot Number
TVP	Time Variant Parameter
U-PLANE	User-PLANE
URT	Usage Restriction Type
URTC	Usage Restriction Type Confidentiality
V+D	Voice + Data
XOR	eXclusive OR

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## 4 DMO security class

### 4.1 General

TETRA security is defined in terms of class. DMO security offers 4 classes defined in table 4.1.

NOTE: DMO offers equivalence to TMO security class 1 (no encryption enabled) and to TMO security class 2 (SCK encryption supported).

**Table 4.1: Direct Mode security class**

DMO security class	Remark
DM-1	No encryption applied.
DM-2-A	The DM-SDU and any related traffic is AI encrypted. Addresses are not encrypted.
DM-2-B	The destination address (SSI), DM-SDU and any related traffic are AI encrypted.
DM-2-C	In the DMAC-SYNC PDU, the PDU is encrypted from destination address element and onwards except for source address type element, and any related traffic is AI encrypted. In the DMAC-DATA PDU, the PDU is encrypted from the destination address type element and onwards.
NOTE 1: Except in DMAC-DATA PDUs for class DM-2-C the destination and source address type elements are never encrypted.	
NOTE 2: DM-1 is considered the lowest level of security.	
NOTE 3: DM-2-A through DM-2-B to DM-2-C provide progressively increased levels of security by encrypting more of the signalling content.	

The security class is identified in DMAC-SYNC PDUs by the AI encryption state element (see table 4.2).

**Table 4.2: AI encryption state element encoding**

Information element	Length	Value	Class
Air Interface encryption state	2	00 <sub>2</sub>	DM-1
		10 <sub>2</sub>	DM-2-A
		11 <sub>2</sub>	DM-2-B
		01 <sub>2</sub>	DM-2-C

On establishing a call the first master shall establish the security class of the call. The security class should be maintained for the duration of the call.

## 4.2 DM-2-A

The purpose of security class DM-2-A is to provide confidentiality of user traffic and signalling in applications where it is not necessary to hide the addressing information.

In addition security class DM-2-A allows calls to be made through a repeater where the repeater is not provided with the capability to encrypt or decrypt messages by maintaining the layer 2 (MAC) elements of any signalling in clear.

Addresses identified by the Usage Restriction Type (URT) field in repeaters, gateways and combined repeater-gateways, shall be in clear (i.e. the Encrypted DMO Short Identity-Usage Restriction Type Confidentiality (EDSI-URTC) shall not apply).

## 4.3 DM-2-B

The purpose of security class DM-2-B is to provide confidentiality of user traffic and signalling.

Security class DM-2-B extends the confidentiality applied to signalling over that provided in class DM-2-A to encrypt parts of the MAC header. The encryption allows repeater operation to be made without requiring the repeater to be able to encrypt and decrypt transmissions unless it wishes to check the validity of the destination address. In class DM-2-B because the source address is in clear, a pre-emptor can identify the pre-emption slots and hence the call can be pre-empted even if the pre-emptor does not have the encryption key being used by the call master.

Addresses identified by the URT field in repeaters, gateways and combined repeater-gateways, should be encrypted (i.e. EDSI-URTC should apply).

## 4.4 DM-2-C

The purpose of security class DM-2-C is to provide confidentiality of user traffic and signalling including all identities other than those of repeaters and gateways.

In addition in class DM-2-C the bulk of the MAC header elements are encrypted. Where repeaters are used, the repeater requires the ability to encrypt and decrypt all transmissions. In class DM-2-C calls can only be pre-empted by an MS which has the SCK in use by the call master.

Addresses identified by the URT field in repeaters, gateways and combined repeater-gateways, should be encrypted (i.e. EDSI-URTC should apply).

## 5 DMO call procedures

### 5.1 General

#### 5.1.1 Security profile

An MS should maintain a security profile for each destination address. The security profile should contain at least the following for each destination address:

- KSG, as identified by its KSG-identifier;
- current SCK, as identified by SCKN, for transmission;
- valid SCKs, as identified by SCKN, for reception;
- the preferred, and minimum, security class to be applied to calls for transmission;
- the minimum security class to be applied to calls for reception; and
- the minimum security class that a master will accept in a pre-emption request.

The preferred security class is the security class to be used for transmission when the MS is acting as a call master. The minimum security class for transmission is the lowest security class that the MS shall use to transmit responses to other signalling.

NOTE 1: Minimum may be the same as preferred.

NOTE 2: A default profile may be maintained in addition to a profile for specific addresses.

NOTE 3: A profile should exist for received individual calls (i.e. for calls where destination address is that of the receiving MS).

NOTE 4: If the preferred security class to be applied to calls for transmission is DM-2-C the minimum security class that a master will accept in a pre-emption request should be set to class DM-2-C MS.

#### 5.1.2 Indication of security parameters

In call setup procedures the DMAC-SYNC PDU found in logical channel SCH/S shall contain the parameters required to identify the security class of the call, the encryption algorithm and the identity of the key in use, in addition to the current value of the Time Variant Parameter used to synchronize the encryption devices (see also annex A).

The DMAC-SYNC PDU is defined in clause 9 of EN 300 396-3 [5] and contains the security elements identified in table 5.1.

Table 5.1: Security elements of DMAC-SYNC PDU contents in SCH/S

Information element	Length	Value	Remark
Air interface encryption state	2		Security class (see note 1)
Time Variant Parameter	29	Any	
Reserved	1	0	Default value is 0
KSG number	4		
Encryption key number	5		Identifies SCKN (see note 2)
NOTE 1: If set to DM-1 the other security elements shall not be present.			
NOTE 2: The encoding is such that 00000 <sub>2</sub> indicates SCKN = 1, 11111 <sub>2</sub> indicates SCKN = 32.			

## 5.2 Security class on call setup

### 5.2.1 General

On establishing a call the first master shall establish the security class of the call by setting the Air Interface (AI) encryption state element of DMAC-SYNC PDU using data contained in the master's security profile.

Once an SCK has been established for a call transaction the master shall make no changes to the ciphering parameters (key, algorithm, class) within that call transaction.

The security class and algorithm should be maintained for the duration of the call. The key may be different in different transactions because each MS may have a different definition of which SCKN is current.

### 5.2.2 Normal behaviour

On receipt of call setup the DM-MS shall extract the ciphering parameters from the DMAC-SYNC PDU. These parameters shall be compared with the DM-MS's predefined security profile associated with the destination address. If the parameters match the security profile (i.e. KSG-id identical, SCKN belongs to the KAG specified for the address, security class is equal to or greater than the minimum required for the destination address) the call may be accepted (i.e. speech or data path opened).

### 5.2.3 Exceptional behaviour

On receipt of call setup the slave DM-MS shall extract the ciphering parameters from the DMAC-SYNC PDU. These parameters shall be compared with the DM-MS's predefined security profile associated with the destination address.

#### 5.2.3.1 Call-setup with presence check

If the parameters do not match the security profile (i.e. KSG-id is not identical, or SCKN does not belong to the KAG specified for the address, or security class is not equal to or greater than the minimum required for the destination address) the slave should ignore or reject the call (i.e. speech or data path closed) with reason "security parameter mismatch".

#### 5.2.3.2 Call-setup without presence check

If the parameters do not match the security profile (i.e. KSG-id is not identical, or SCKN does not belong to the KAG specified for the address, or security class is not equal to or greater than the minimum required for the destination address), the slave should ignore the call (i.e. speech or data path closed).