



**Digital Radio Mondiale (DRM);  
System Specification**

*ITeH STANDARDS PREVIEW  
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Full standard:  
<https://standards.iteh.ai/catalog/standards/sist/2019-981c-4e98-a365-226e56582b36/etsi-es-201-980-v4-2-2020-11>*

**EBU**

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Reference

RES/JTC-DRM-35

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Keywords

broadcasting, digital, DRM, radio

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# Contents

Intellectual Property Rights .....	8
Foreword.....	8
Modal verbs terminology.....	8
Introduction .....	9
1 Scope .....	10
2 References .....	10
2.1 Normative references .....	10
2.2 Informative references.....	11
3 Definition of terms, symbols, abbreviations and conventions.....	11
3.1 Terms.....	11
3.2 Symbols.....	12
3.3 Abbreviations .....	13
3.4 Conventions.....	14
4 General characteristics .....	15
4.1 System overview .....	15
4.2 System architecture .....	15
4.3 Audio source coding.....	17
4.4 Transmission modes.....	18
4.4.1 Signal bandwidth related parameters .....	18
4.4.2 Transmission efficiency related parameters.....	18
4.4.2.0 General.....	18
4.4.2.1 Coding rates and constellations.....	18
4.4.2.2 OFDM parameter set.....	18
5 Source coding modes.....	19
5.1 Overview .....	19
5.1.0 Introduction.....	19
5.1.1 Extended HE-AAC audio coding (xHE-AAC).....	20
5.1.2 AAC audio coding .....	20
5.1.3 MPEG Surround coding.....	22
5.2 Audio super framing.....	22
5.3 xHE-AAC coding.....	23
5.3.1 xHE-AAC .....	23
5.3.1.0 Introduction.....	23
5.3.1.1 xHE-AAC audio super frame .....	24
5.3.1.2 xHE-AAC audio frame .....	25
5.3.1.3 Transport of xHE-AAC audio frames within the payload section .....	25
5.3.2 xHE-AAC decoder configuration .....	27
5.3.3 xHE-AAC error concealment .....	30
5.3.3.0 Introduction.....	30
5.3.3.1 Frequency Domain coding (AAC based coding and TCX).....	30
5.3.3.2 ACELP .....	31
5.3.3.3 SBR.....	31
5.3.3.4 MPS212 parametric stereo .....	34
5.3.3.5 MDCT based Complex Prediction .....	34
5.3.3.6 Forward Aliasing Cancellation.....	34
5.3.4 xHE-AAC + MPS .....	34
5.4 AAC coding.....	35
5.4.1 AAC.....	35
5.4.2 AAC + SBR .....	37
5.4.3 Parametric Stereo coding .....	38
5.4.4 AAC error concealment .....	39
5.4.4.0 Introduction.....	39
5.4.4.1 Interpolation of one corrupt frame .....	39

5.4.4.2	Fade-out and fade-in .....	40
5.4.4.3	Concealment granularity .....	40
5.4.4.4	SBR error concealment .....	40
5.4.4.5	Parametric Stereo concealment .....	43
5.4.5	AAC + MPS.....	43
6	Multiplex definition.....	45
6.1	Introduction .....	45
6.2	Main Service Channel (MSC) .....	45
6.2.1	Introduction.....	45
6.2.2	Structure.....	45
6.2.3	Building the MSC .....	45
6.2.4	Reconfiguration .....	46
6.3	Fast Access Channel (FAC) .....	46
6.3.1	Introduction.....	46
6.3.2	Structure.....	46
6.3.3	Channel parameters.....	46
6.3.4	Service parameters .....	49
6.3.5	CRC .....	51
6.3.6	FAC repetition .....	51
6.4	Service Description Channel (SDC).....	52
6.4.1	Introduction.....	52
6.4.2	Structure.....	52
6.4.3	Data entities .....	53
6.4.3.0	Introduction.....	53
6.4.3.1	Multiplex description data entity - type 0 .....	54
6.4.3.2	Label data entity - type 1.....	54
6.4.3.3	Conditional access parameters data entity - type 2 .....	55
6.4.3.4	Alternative frequency signalling: Multiple frequency network information data entity - type 3 .....	56
6.4.3.5	Alternative frequency signalling: Schedule definition data entity - type 4 .....	58
6.4.3.6	Application information data entity - type 5 .....	58
6.4.3.7	Announcement support and switching data entity - type 6 .....	60
6.4.3.8	Alternative frequency signalling: Region definition data entity - type 7 .....	62
6.4.3.9	Time and date information data entity - type 8 .....	63
6.4.3.10	Audio information data entity - type 9 .....	63
6.4.3.11	FAC channel parameters data entity - type 10 .....	66
6.4.3.12	Alternative frequency signalling: Other services data entity - type 11.....	67
6.4.3.13	Language and country data entity - type 12 .....	71
6.4.3.14	Alternative frequency signalling: detailed region definition data entity - type 13 .....	71
6.4.3.15	Packet stream FEC parameters data entity - type 14.....	72
6.4.3.16	Extension data entity - type 15.....	73
6.4.3.16.0	General .....	73
6.4.3.16.1	Service linking information data entity - type 15, extension 0 .....	73
6.4.3.16.2	Other data entity type 15 extensions.....	74
6.4.4	Summary of data entity characteristics .....	75
6.4.5	Changing the content of the SDC .....	76
6.4.6	Signalling of reconfigurations.....	77
6.4.6.0	Introduction.....	77
6.4.6.1	Service reconfigurations.....	77
6.4.6.2	Channel reconfigurations .....	78
6.5	Text message application .....	78
6.6	Packet mode .....	80
6.6.0	Introduction.....	80
6.6.1	Packet structure.....	80
6.6.1.0	Introduction.....	80
6.6.1.1	Header .....	81
6.6.1.2	Data field.....	81
6.6.2	Asynchronous streams .....	82
6.6.3	Files .....	82
6.6.4	Choosing the packet length.....	82
6.6.5	Forward Error Correction (FEC) for packet mode streams.....	82
6.6.5.0	Introduction.....	82

6.6.5.1	Encoding of FEC Packets.....	83
6.6.5.2	Transport of FEC packets.....	85
6.6.5.3	Receiver considerations .....	86
6.7	Presentation of service labels and text messages.....	86
6.7.1	Introduction.....	86
6.7.2	Encoding of the text control field .....	87
6.7.3	Transport of the text control field .....	88
6.7.3.1	SDC data entity type 1 labels .....	88
6.7.3.2	Text messages .....	89
6.7.4	Display of RTL and bidirectional text .....	89
6.7.4.1	Introduction.....	89
6.7.4.2	Minimum RTL implementation .....	89
6.7.4.3	Simplified bidirectional algorithm .....	90
7	Channel coding and modulation.....	91
7.1	Introduction .....	91
7.2	Transport multiplex adaptation and energy dispersal .....	92
7.2.1	Transport multiplex adaptation .....	92
7.2.1.0	General .....	92
7.2.1.1	MSC .....	92
7.2.1.2	FAC.....	93
7.2.1.3	SDC.....	93
7.2.2	Energy dispersal.....	94
7.3	Coding .....	95
7.3.1	Multilevel coding.....	95
7.3.1.0	Introduction.....	95
7.3.1.1	Partitioning of the bitstream.....	96
7.3.2	Component code .....	97
7.3.3	Bit interleaving .....	103
7.3.3.0	Introduction.....	103
7.3.3.1	FAC.....	103
7.3.3.2	SDC.....	104
7.3.3.3	MSC .....	104
7.4	Signal constellations and mapping .....	105
7.5	Application of coding to the channels .....	107
7.5.1	Coding the MSC .....	107
7.5.1.0	Introduction.....	107
7.5.1.1	Coding.....	107
7.5.2	Coding the SDC .....	108
7.5.3	Coding the FAC .....	109
7.6	MSC cell interleaving.....	109
7.7	Mapping of MSC cells on the transmission super frame structure.....	111
8	Transmission structure .....	112
8.1	Transmission frame structure and robustness modes .....	112
8.2	Propagation-related OFDM parameters.....	114
8.3	Signal bandwidth related parameters.....	114
8.3.1	Parameter definition.....	114
8.3.2	Simulcast transmission .....	116
8.4	Pilot cells .....	116
8.4.1	Functions and derivation.....	116
8.4.2	Frequency references .....	116
8.4.2.0	Introduction.....	116
8.4.2.1	Cell positions.....	117
8.4.2.2	Cell gains and phases .....	117
8.4.3	Time references .....	118
8.4.3.0	Introduction.....	118
8.4.3.1	Cell positions and phases .....	118
8.4.3.2	Cell gains .....	121
8.4.4	Gain references .....	121
8.4.4.0	Introduction.....	121
8.4.4.1	Cell positions.....	121

8.4.4.2	Cell gains .....	121
8.4.4.3	Cell phases .....	122
8.4.4.3.0	Introduction .....	122
8.4.4.3.1	Procedure for calculation of cell phases .....	122
8.4.4.3.2	Robustness mode A .....	123
8.4.4.3.3	Robustness mode B .....	123
8.4.4.3.4	Robustness mode C .....	123
8.4.4.3.5	Robustness mode D .....	124
8.4.4.3.6	Robustness mode E .....	124
8.4.5	AFS references .....	124
8.4.5.0	Introduction .....	124
8.4.5.1	Cell positions and phases .....	125
8.4.5.2	Cell gains .....	126
8.5	Control cells .....	126
8.5.1	General .....	126
8.5.2	FAC cells .....	127
8.5.2.1	Cell positions .....	127
8.5.2.2	Cell gains and phases .....	129
8.5.3	SDC cells .....	129
8.5.3.1	Cell positions .....	129
8.5.3.2	Cell gains and phases .....	130
8.6	Data cells .....	130
8.6.1	Cell positions .....	130
8.6.2	Cell gains and phases .....	130
<b>Annex A (informative):</b>	<b>Simulated system performance .....</b>	<b>131</b>
<b>Annex B (informative):</b>	<b>Definition of channel profiles .....</b>	<b>132</b>
B.1	Robustness modes A, B, C and D .....	132
B.2	Robustness mode E .....	134
<b>Annex C (informative):</b>	<b>Example of mapping of logical frames to multiplex frames .....</b>	<b>137</b>
<b>Annex D (normative):</b>	<b>Calculation of the CRC word .....</b>	<b>139</b>
<b>Annex E (informative):</b>	<b>RF protection ratios .....</b>	<b>141</b>
<b>Annex F (informative):</b>	<b>Alternative Frequency and announcement signalling .....</b>	<b>142</b>
F.0	Introduction .....	142
F.1	Possibilities of the Alternative Frequency Signalling feature .....	142
F.2	Possibilities of the announcement feature .....	143
F.3	SDC data entities overview for Alternative Frequency and announcement signalling .....	145
F.4	SDC data entities and setup for alternative frequency signalling .....	146
F.5	SDC data entities and setup for announcement .....	146
F.6	Alternative frequency and announcement signalling - coding example .....	148
<b>Annex G (informative):</b>	<b>Guidelines for receiver implementation .....</b>	<b>151</b>
G.0	Introduction .....	151
G.1	Alternative frequency checking and switching (AFS) .....	151
G.2	Station buttons for DRM services .....	152
G.3	Seamless Alternative Frequency checking and Switching (AFS) .....	153
<b>Annex H (informative):</b>	<b>Service capacity and bit rates .....</b>	<b>156</b>
<b>Annex I:</b>	<b>Void .....</b>	<b>157</b>

<b>Annex J (informative):</b>	<b>Numbers of input bits.....</b>	<b>158</b>
<b>Annex K (informative):</b>	<b>Simulcast transmission, alternate sources and enhancement signalling.....</b>	<b>160</b>
<b>Annex L (informative):</b>	<b>Pilot reference illustrations.....</b>	<b>163</b>
<b>Annex M (informative):</b>	<b>MSC configuration examples.....</b>	<b>169</b>
<b>Annex N (informative):</b>	<b>Signalling Warning/Alarm announcements.....</b>	<b>172</b>
<b>Annex O (normative):</b>	<b>Interpretation of schedules for Alternative Frequency Signalling.....</b>	<b>173</b>
<b>Annex P (informative):</b>	<b>Transmit diversity.....</b>	<b>175</b>
<b>Annex Q (informative):</b>	<b>Seamless reconfiguration.....</b>	<b>176</b>
<b>Annex R (informative):</b>	<b>Seamless receiver switching between DRM, DAB, AM and FM broadcasts.....</b>	<b>178</b>
R.1	Overview.....	178
R.2	General network timing considerations.....	178
R.3	Network synchronization rules.....	179
R.4	Receiver implementation rules.....	180
R.5	Definition of broadcast signal time references.....	181
<b>Annex S (informative):</b>	<b>Combined transmission of DRM and FM.....</b>	<b>182</b>
<b>Annex T (informative):</b>	<b>Assignment of Service identifiers.....</b>	<b>183</b>
T.0	Introduction.....	183
T.1	Domestic services.....	183
T.2	International services.....	183
History	.....	184



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# Foreword

This final draft ETSI Standard (ES) has been produced by Joint Technical Committee (JTC) Broadcast of the European Broadcasting Union (EBU), Comité Européen de Normalisation ELECTrotechnique (CENELEC) and the European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI), and is now submitted for the ETSI standards Membership Approval Procedure.

NOTE: The EBU/ETSI JTC Broadcast was established in 1990 to co-ordinate the drafting of standards in the specific field of broadcasting and related fields. Since 1995 the JTC Broadcast became a tripartite body by including in the Memorandum of Understanding also CENELEC, which is responsible for the standardization of radio and television receivers. The EBU is a professional association of broadcasting organizations whose work includes the co-ordination of its members' activities in the technical, legal, programme-making and programme-exchange domains. The EBU has active members in about 60 countries in the European broadcasting area; its headquarters is in Geneva.

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# Modal verbs terminology

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## Introduction

The frequency bands used for broadcasting below 30 MHz are:

- Low Frequency (LF) band: from 148,5 kHz to 283,5 kHz, in ITU Region 1 [1] only;
- Medium Frequency (MF) band: from 526,5 kHz to 1 606,5 kHz, in ITU Regions 1 [1] and 3 [1] and from 525 kHz to 1 705 kHz in ITU Region 2 [1];
- High Frequency (HF) band: a set of individual broadcasting bands in the frequency range 2,3 MHz to 27 MHz, generally available on a Worldwide basis.

These bands offer unique propagation capabilities that permit the achievement of:

- large coverage areas, whose size and location may be dependent upon the time of day, season of the year or period in the (approximately) 11 year sunspot cycle;
- portable and mobile reception with relatively little impairment caused by the environment surrounding the receiver.

There is thus a desire to continue broadcasting in these bands, perhaps especially in the case of international broadcasting where the HF bands offer the only reception possibilities which do not also involve the use of local repeater stations.

However, broadcasting services in these bands:

- use analogue techniques;
- are subject to limited quality;
- are subject to considerable interference as a result of the long-distance propagation mechanisms which prevail in this part of the frequency spectrum and the large number of users.

As a direct result of the above considerations, there is a desire to effect a transfer to digital transmission and reception techniques in order to provide the increase in quality which is needed to retain listeners who, increasingly, have a wide variety of other programme reception media possibilities, usually already offering higher quality and reliability.

In order to meet the need for a digital transmission system suitable for use in all of the bands below 30 MHz, the Digital Radio Mondiale (DRM) consortium was formed in early 1998. The DRM consortium is a non-profit making body which seeks to develop and promote the use of the DRM system worldwide. Its members include broadcasters, network providers, receiver and transmitter manufacturers and research institutes. More information is available from their website (<http://www.drm.org/>).

In March 2005, the DRM Consortium voted at its General Assembly to embark on extending the capability of the DRM system to provide digital radio services at higher transmission frequencies. This range includes:

- 47 MHz to 68 MHz (Band I) allocated to analogue television broadcasting;
- 65,8 MHz to 74 MHz (OIRT FM band);
- 76 MHz to 90 MHz (Japanese FM band);
- 87,5 MHz to 107,9 MHz (Band II) allocated to FM radio broadcasting;
- 174 MHz to 240 MHz (Band III) allocated to digital broadcasting.

This extension completes the family of digital standards for radio broadcasting.

# 1 Scope

The present document gives the specification for the Digital Radio Mondiale (DRM) system for digital transmissions in the broadcasting bands below 300 MHz.

With respect to the previous published version, the present document removes unused modulation features and defines additional text handling features.

## 2 References

### 2.1 Normative references

References are either specific (identified by date of publication and/or edition number or version number) or non-specific. For specific references, only the cited version applies. For non-specific references, the latest version of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

Referenced documents which are not found to be publicly available in the expected location might be found at <https://docbox.etsi.org/Reference/>.

NOTE: While any hyperlinks included in this clause were valid at the time of publication, ETSI cannot guarantee their long term validity.

The following referenced documents are necessary for the application of the present document.

- [1] ITU Radio Regulations.
- [2] ISO/IEC 14496-3: "Information technology - Coding of audio-visual objects - Part 3: Audio".
- [3] ETSI EN 300 401: "Radio Broadcasting Systems; Digital Audio Broadcasting (DAB) to mobile, portable and fixed receivers".
- [4] ISO/IEC 10646: "Information technology -- Universal Coded Character Set (UCS)".
- [5] ISO 639-2: "Codes for the representation of names of languages - Part 2: Alpha-3 code".
- [6] ISO 3166 (all parts): "Codes for the representation of names of countries and their subdivisions".
- [7] ISO/IEC 8859-1: "Information technology - 8-bit single-byte coded graphic character sets - Part 1: Latin alphabet No. 1".
- [8] ETSI TS 101 968: "Digital Radio Mondiale (DRM); Data applications directory".
- [9] Void.
- [10] ISO/IEC 23003-1: "Information technology - MPEG audio technologies - Part 1: MPEG Surround".
- [11] ISO/IEC 23003-3: "Information technology - MPEG audio technologies - Part 3: Unified speech and audio coding".
- [12] ETSI TS 126 290: "Digital cellular telecommunications system (Phase 2+) (GSM); Universal Mobile Telecommunications System (UMTS); LTE; Audio codec processing functions; Extended Adaptive Multi-Rate - Wideband (AMR-WB+) codec; Transcoding functions (3GPP TS 26.290)".
- [13] IEC 62106: "Specification of the Radio Data System (RDS) for VHF/FM sound broadcasting in the frequency range from 87,5 MHz to 108,0 MHz".
- [14] ETSI TS 102 386: "Digital Radio Mondiale (DRM); AM signalling system (AMSS)".
- [15] ETSI TS 103 176: "Digital Audio Broadcasting (DAB); Rules of implementation; Service information features".

- [16] ETSI TS 102 980: "Digital Audio Broadcasting (DAB); Dynamic Label Plus (DL Plus); Application specification".
- [17] ETSI TS 103 771: "Digital Radio Mondiale (DRM); Regional profiles".
- [18] Unicode® standard.

NOTE: Available at <https://www.unicode.org/versions/latest>.

- [19] Unicode® bidirectional algorithm, UAX#9.

NOTE: Available at <http://www.unicode.org/reports/tr9/>.

## 2.2 Informative references

References are either specific (identified by date of publication and/or edition number or version number) or non-specific. For specific references, only the cited version applies. For non-specific references, the latest version of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

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The following referenced documents are not necessary for the application of the present document but they assist the user with regard to a particular subject area.

- [i.1] Recommendation ITU-R BS.1615: "Planning parameters" for digital sound broadcasting at frequencies below 30 MHz".
- [i.2] Recommendation ITU-R BS.1660: "Technical basis for planning of terrestrial digital sound broadcasting in the VHF band".

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## 3 Definition of terms, symbols, abbreviations and conventions

### 3.1 Terms

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

**cell:** sine wave portion of duration  $T_s$ , transmitted with a given amplitude and phase and corresponding to a carrier position

NOTE: Each OFDM symbol is the sum of  $K$  such sine wave portions equally spaced in frequency.

**energy dispersal:** operation involving deterministic selective complementing of bits in the logical frame, intended to reduce the possibility that systematic patterns result in unwanted regularity in the transmitted signal

**Fast Access Channel (FAC):** channel of the multiplex data stream which contains the information that is necessary to find services and begin to decode the multiplex

**kbit/s:** kilo bits per second (1 000 bits per second)

**logical frame:** data contained in one stream during 400 ms or 100 ms

**Main Service Channel (MSC):** channel of the multiplex data stream which occupies the major part of the transmission frame and which carries all the digital audio services, together with possible supporting and additional data services

**mod:** modulo operator

NOTE:  $(x \bmod y) = z$ , where  $y > 0$ , such that  $x = qy + z$ ,  $q$  is an integer and  $0 \leq z < y$ .

**multiplex frame:** logical frames from all streams form a multiplex frame

NOTE: It is the relevant basis for coding and interleaving.

**OFDM symbol:** transmitted signal for that portion of time when the modulating amplitude and phase state is held constant on each of the equally-spaced carriers in the signal

**reserved for future addition (rfa):** bits with this designation are set to zero

NOTE: Receivers need not decode these bits.

**reserved for future use (rfu):** bits with this designation are set to zero

NOTE: Receivers need to check these bits in order to determine the valid status of the other fields in the same scope.

**Service Description Channel (SDC):** channel of the multiplex data stream which gives information to decode the services included in the multiplex

NOTE: The SDC also provides additional information to enable a receiver to find alternative sources of the same data.

**Single Frequency Network (SFN):** network of transmitters sharing the same radio frequency to achieve a large area coverage

**transmission frame:** number of consecutive OFDM symbols, whereby the first OFDM symbol contains the time reference cells

**transmission super frame:** set of consecutive transmission frames, whereby the first OFDM symbols contain the SDC block

**UEP profile:** combination of protection levels and lengths of higher protected parts for unequal error protection

## 3.2 Symbols

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

$E[ ]$	expectation value of the expression in brackets
$f_R$	reference frequency of the emitted signal
$K$	number of active carriers in the OFDM symbol
$K_{\max}$	carrier index of the upper active carrier in the OFDM signal
$K_{\min}$	carrier index of the lower active carrier in the OFDM signal
$L_{MUX}$	number of input bits per multiplex frame for the multilevel encoding
$N_{MUX}$	number of MSC cells (QAM symbols) per multiplex frame
$T$	elementary time period, equal to $83^{1/3} \mu\text{s}$ (1/12 kHz)
$T_f$	duration of the transmission frame
$T_g$	duration of the guard interval
$T_s$	duration of an OFDM symbol
$T_{sf}$	duration of the transmission super-frame built from the set of transmission frames
$T_u$	duration of the useful (orthogonal) part of an OFDM symbol, excluding the guard interval
$X^*$	complex conjugate of value $X$
$\lceil \rceil$	round towards plus infinity
$\lfloor \rfloor$	round towards minus infinity

### 3.3 Abbreviations

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

AAC	Advanced Audio Coding
ACELP	Algebraic Code Excited Linear Prediction
AF	Audio Frequency
AFS	Alternative Frequency Switching
AM	Amplitude Modulation
AMR-WB	Adaptive Multi-Rate WideBand
AMSS	Amplitude Modulation Signalling System
AWGN	Additive White Gaussian Noise
BER	Bit Error Rate
CA	Conditional Access
CC	Country Codes
CCIR	Comité Consultatif International des Radio-communications
CI	Continuity Index
CIRAF	Conferencia Internacional de Radiodifusión por Altas Frecuencias
CRC	Cyclic Redundancy Check
DAB	Digital Audio Broadcasting
DC	Direct Current
DL	Dynamic Label
DRM	Digital Radio Mondiale
DSB	Double SideBand
ECC	Extended Country Code
EEP	Equal Error Protection
EP	Error Protection
ER	Error Robust
EW	East West
FAC	Fast Access Channel
FEC	Forward Error Correction
FM	Frequency Modulation
HCR	Huffman Codeword Reordering
HE-AAC	High Efficiency AAC
HF	High Frequency
HFBC	High Frequency Broadcasting Committee
HFCC	High Frequency Coordination Committee
ID	Identification
IFFT	Inverse Fast Fourier Transform
ILS	International Linkage Set
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
LA	Linkage Actuator
LF	Low Frequency
LOS	Line-Of-Sight
LRI	Left-to-Right Isolate
LSb	Least Significant bit
LSN	Linkage Set Number
LTO	Local Time Offset
LTR	Left-To-Right
MDCT	Modified Discrete Cosine Transform
MDI	Multiplex Distribution Interface
MF	Medium Frequency
MJD	Modified Julian Date
MPEG	Moving Picture Experts Group
MPS	MPEG Surround
MSb	Most Significant bit
MSC	Main Service Channel
MW	Medium Wave
NS	North South
OFDM	Orthogonal Frequency Division Multiplexing