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Digital Video Broadcasting (DVB); DVB mega-frame for Single Frequency Network (SFN) synchronization

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Technical Specification

Digital Video Broadcasting (DVB); DVB mega-frame for Single Frequency Network (SFN) synchronization

European Broadcasting Union  Union Européenne de Radio-Télévision

DVB

Digital Video
Broadcasting

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Foreword

This Technical Specification (TS) has been produced by the Joint Technical Committee (JTC) of the European Broadcasting Union (EBU), Comité Européen de Normalisation ELECTrotechnique (CENELEC) and the European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI).

NOTE: The EBU/ETSI JTC was established in 1990 to co-ordinate the drafting of standards in the specific field of broadcasting and related fields. Since 1995 the JTC 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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Digital Video Broadcasting (DVB) Project

Founded in September 1993, the DVB Project is a market-led consortium of public and private sector organizations in the television industry. Its aim is to establish the framework for the introduction of Moving Pictures Expert Group (MPEG)-2 based digital television services. Now comprising over 200 organizations from more than 25 countries around the world, DVB fosters market-led systems, which meet the real needs, and economic circumstances, of the consumer electronics and the broadcast industry.

1 Scope

The present document specifies a mega-frame, including a Mega-frame Initialization Packet (MIP), which may be used for synchronization of the Single Frequency Networks (SFN) as well as for the optional control of other important parameters in an SFN.

2 Normative references

References may be made to:

- a) specific versions of publications (identified by date of publication, edition number, version number, etc.), in which case, subsequent revisions to the referenced document do not apply; or
- b) all versions up to and including the identified version (identified by "up to and including" before the version identity); or
- c) all versions subsequent to and including the identified version (identified by "onwards" following the version identity); or
- d) publications without mention of a specific version, in which case the latest version applies.

A non-specific reference to an ETS shall also be taken to refer to later versions published as an EN with the same number.

- [1] ISO/IEC 13818-1 (1994): "Information Technology - Generic Coding of Moving Pictures and Associated Audio: Systems".
- [2] EN 300 744: "Digital Video Broadcasting (DVB); Framing structure, channel coding and modulation for digital terrestrial television".

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3 Definitions and abbreviations

3.1 Definitions

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

frame: For the definition of a DVB-Terrestrial (DVB-T) frame, see EN 300 744 [2], subclause 4.4.

super-frame: For the definition of a DVB-T super-frame, see EN 300 744 [2], subclause 4.4.

3.2 Abbreviations

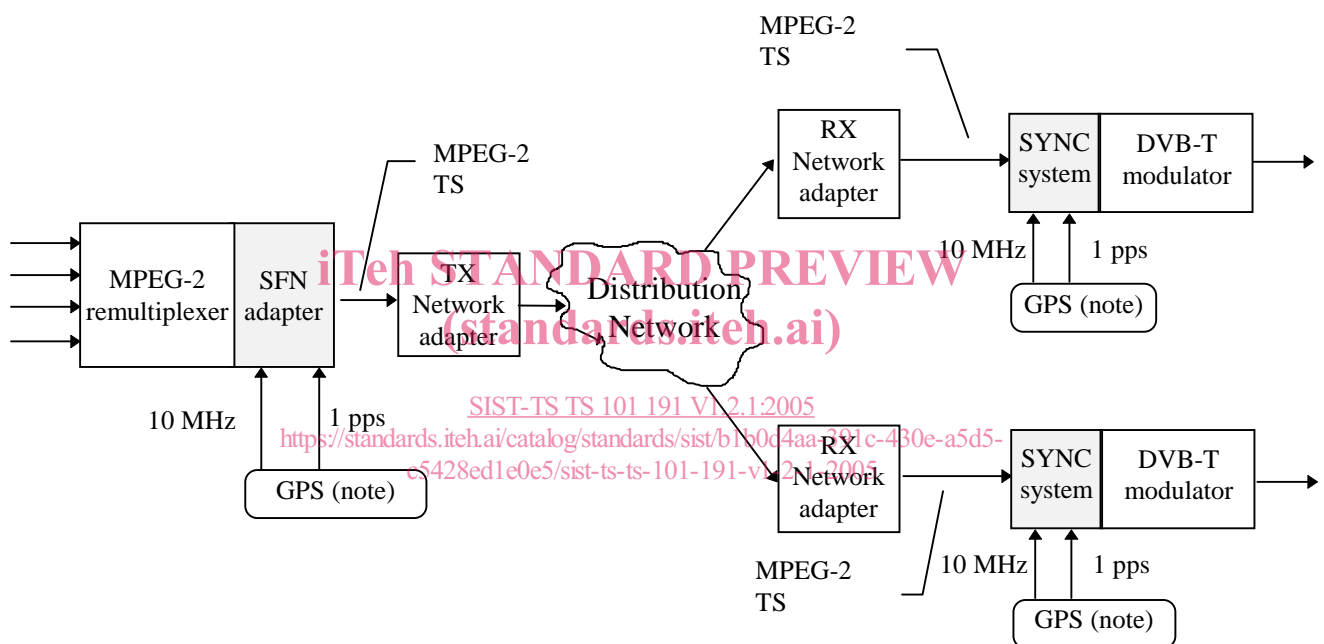
For the purposes of the present document, the following abbreviations apply:

CRC	Cyclic Redundancy Check
DVB	Digital Video Broadcasting
DVB-T	DVB-Terrestrial
ERP	Effective Radiated Power
GPS	Global Positioning System
HP	High Priority
MFN	Multi Frequency Network
LP	Low Priority
MFP	Mega-Frame Packet
MIP	Mega-frame Initialization Packet
MPEG	Moving Pictures Expert Group
PID	Packet IDentifier

pps	pulse per second
RF	Radio Frequency
RS	Reed-Solomon
SFN	Single Frequency Network
SI	Service Information
STS	Synchronization Time Stamp
SYNC	SYNChronization
TPH	Transport Packet Header
TPS	Transport Parameter Signalling
TS	Transport Stream
TX/RX	Transmitter/Receiver

4 General description

Figure 1 shows a block diagram of a complete SFN system.



NOTE: Could be any common available frequency reference.

Figure 1: DVB-T primary distribution with SFN adaptation

The SFN functionality is an extension to the DVB system. The blocks associated with SFN functionality are the grey boxes in figure 1. These blocks could be implemented either as separate equipment or integrated in the multiplexer and/or the DVB-T modulator.

SFN system blocks

MPEG-2 re-multiplexer

The MPEG-2 re-multiplexer re-multiplexes the programmes from various input channels, updates the Service Information (SI) and provides an MPEG-2 Transport Stream (TS) which, after SFN adaptation, is transmitted via the DVB-T modulators in the SFN.

SFN adapter

The SFN adapter forms a mega-frame, consisting of n TS-packets corresponding to 8 DVB-T frames in the 8k mode or 32 frames in the 2k mode, and inserts a MIP with a dedicated Packet Identifier (PID) value. Inserted anywhere within a

mega-frame of index M , the MIP of that mega-frame, MIP_M , allows to uniquely identify the starting point (i.e. the first packet) of the mega-frame $M+1$. This is accomplished by using a pointer carried by the MIP_M itself to indicate its position with regards to the start of the mega-frame $M+1$.

The time difference between the latest pulse of the "one-pulse-per-second" reference, derived e.g. from Global Positioning System (GPS), that precedes the start of the mega-frame $M+1$ and the actual start (i.e. first bit of first packet) of this mega-frame $M+1$ is copied into the MIP_M . This parameter is called Synchronization Time Stamp (STS).

The time duration of a mega-frame is independent of the duration T_u , constellation and code rate of the DVB-T signal. Four different time durations exist depending on the chosen guard interval proportion:

$$0,502656 \text{ s } (\Delta/T_u=1/32);$$

$$0,517888 \text{ s } (\Delta/T_u=1/16);$$

$$0,548352 \text{ s } (\Delta/T_u=1/8);$$

$$0,609280 \text{ s } (\Delta/T_u=1/4).$$

The output of the SFN adapter shall be fully DVB/MPEG-2 TS compliant.

Transmitter/Receiver network adapter

The network adapters shall provide a transparent link for the MPEG-2 TS from the central to the local units. The maximum network delay - caused by the different paths of the transmission network - the SYNChronization (SYNC) system can handle is 1 second.

SYNC system

The SYNC system will provide a propagation time compensation by comparing the inserted STS with the local time reference and calculate the extra delay needed for SFN synchronization. See annex B for an example of the synchronization process.

DVB-T modulator

The modulator should provide a fixed delay from the input to the air interface. The information inserted in the MIP could be used for the direct control of the modulator modes or control of other transmitter parameters. The modulator clocks at the different sites have to be synchronized. Since it is a requirement of an SFN that all transmitted signals be identical, the MPEG-2 TS inputs to the various DVB-T modulators have to be bit identical.

Global Positioning System (GPS)

GPS is one among many possible time references but it is the only one available globally. GPS receivers are available which provide both a 10 MHz frequency reference and a 1 pulse per second (pps) time reference. The 1 pps time reference, used in SFN synchronization, is divided into 100 ns steps of the 10 MHz clock. The 10 MHz system clock is assumed to be available at all nodes in the network.

The functional blocks "SFN adapter" and "SYNC system" are additional elements for SFN use, and not necessary in Multi Frequency Network (MFN) applications.

5 Mega-frame definition

The output of the SFN adapter shall be a valid MPEG-2 TS, where the individual packets are organized in groups, which constitute a mega-frame. Each mega-frame consists of n packets, where n is an integer number which depends on the number of Reed-Solomon (RS)-packets per super-frame in the DVB-T mode that will be used for DVB-T emission of the MPEG-2 TS (see EN 300 744 [2], subclause 4.7). In the 8k mode n is (the number of RS-packets per super-frame) \times 2. In the 2k mode n is (the number of RS-packets per super-frame) \times 8.

Each mega-frame contains exactly one MIP. The actual position may vary in an arbitrary way from mega-frame to mega-frame. The pointer value in the MIP is used to indicate the start of the following mega-frame. In figure 2 the overall structure of the mega-frame, including the positioning of the MIP, is given. The exact definition of the MIP format is given in clause 6.