



# Digital Radio Mondiale South Africa

ORAL REPRESENTATION ON THE 2<sup>nd</sup> DRAFT  
NATIONAL RADIO FREQUENCY  
PLAN (NRFP-2025)



# INTRODUCTION

- The DRM consortium welcomes the work ICASA has done on the second draft of the National Radio Frequency Plan (NRFP-2025)
- The DRM Consortium thanks the regulator for incorporating the majority of its comments from the first draft NRFP-2025.
- We would like to highlight the salient points from our written submission on the second draft of the NRFP-2025.

# Who are we?

- **Founded in 1998**  
by international organisations to promote the adoption of the DRM standard worldwide
- **Not-for-profit organisation**
- **Around 100 international members**  
Broadcasters, manufacturers, network operators, regulators, research institutes, etc...
- **Experts and technologists**  
Ready to give expert and objective advice on the technology
- **Open to all**  
Companies, organisations, associations and individuals can join at any time.

## SA GROUP OBJECTIVES

**Advocate** the use of DRM as the preferred standard for digital sound broadcasting in South Africa

Create **Awareness** of DRM with the general public, stakeholders, suppliers, manufacturers, retailers and all government entities

**Influence** industry and stakeholders on the use of DRM

Be the credible **Authority** on the DRM standard in South Africa (the knowledge hub for everything DRM related)

For joining the DRM group, write to:  
[projectoffice@drm.org](mailto:projectoffice@drm.org)

## DRM Terminology – One Standard

- DRM is a single ITU-R standard with DRM30 and DRM+ being operational modes
- DRM30 for LW / MW / SW (<30 MHz) bands and DRM+ for VHF bands (incl. FM)
- We acknowledge the use of these terms by ICASA in a practical spectrum planning context.
- We respectfully request the regulator to clearly differentiate between the unified standard and operational modes in the final NRFP-2025.

## The Use of Long Wave

- We acknowledge the reasons ICASA may have for not including DRM as an application in the LW frequency bands;
  - ✓ *Global decline in LW broadcasting usage &*
  - ✓ *High infrastructure costs*
- The propagation characteristics of LW, particularly over sea – ideal for future maritime automated weather warnings, NAVDAT messaging & transmission of graphics such as sea-state charts.
- We respectfully request ICASA to include DRM as a recognized application in the LW broadcast bands to enable such services in future.

## VHF Band III – Forward Looking

- We welcome the proposed study to identify the highest value uses and develop RFSAP
- Whilst DAB+ has been allocated 214-240 MHz, DRM + can work across VHF band III
- Both DAB and DRM are recognised by ITU. We therefore respectfully request that DRM be included in this band. Equipment exists for transmitting and receiving DRM in
- This will ensure the NRFP-2025 is future proofed.
- We once again confirm our offer to assist with DRM technical expertise, regulatory input and information on trials & case studies in other member territories.

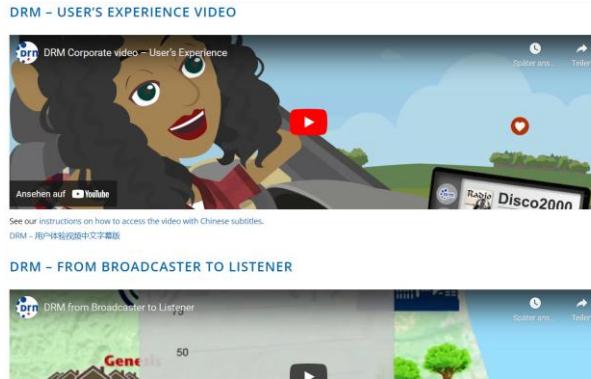
## CONCLUSION

- Thank you for allowing us to participate in this important process.
- We remain committed in supporting the regulator with DRM facts and expertise.



# DRM Smart Radio Benefitting All Listeners

To access information on specific DRM subjects  
type in your browser:  
[pocket.drm.org](http://pocket.drm.org)



Watch the DRM Corporate Videos:  
[videos.drm.org](http://videos.drm.org)



Additional videos on DRM YouTube channel:  
[youtube.drm.org](http://youtube.drm.org)

# DRM Smart Radio Benefitting All Listeners



The screenshot shows the homepage of the DRM digital radio mondiale website. The header includes the DRM logo and the text "DIGITAL radio mondiale". The main navigation menu at the top right lists: HOME, WHAT IS DRM, DRM ON AIR, PRODUCTS, NEWS, EVENTS, and ABOUT US. The main content area features a large blue banner with the text "DIGITAL RADIO FOR ALL" in red and blue. Below the banner is a yellow box with a red pushpin icon and the text "DRM EVENT 'SMART RADIO ACCESSIBLE TO ALL' – BEFORE IBC 2021". The page is divided into two rows of three colored boxes each. The top row contains: a red box with a question mark icon and the text "WHAT IS DRM AND WHAT ARE ITS BENEFITS?", an orange box with a speaker icon and the text "LISTEN & COMPARE", and a purple box with a headphones icon and the text "RECEIVERS". The bottom row contains: a blue box with an 'i' icon and the text "DRM HANDBOOK AND TECHNICAL", a blue box with a clock icon and the text "BROADCAST", and a green box with the Indian national emblem and the text "DRM INDIA PAGE".

For free monthly DRM updates  
visit and subscribe to:  
[newsletter.drm.org](http://newsletter.drm.org)

Dedicated India page  
[india.drm.org](http://india.drm.org)

For any inquiries or comments, please write to:  
[projectoffice@drm.org](mailto:projectoffice@drm.org)

 Follow: [@drmdigitalradio](https://twitter.com/drmdigitalradio)

 Follow: [@drmdigitalradio](https://www.instagram.com/drmdigitalradio)

  [youtube.drm.org](https://youtube.drm.org)

[www.drm.org](http://www.drm.org)

# All you need to know about DRM Digital Radio

## DRM Handbook Version 5

Free download from:  
[handbook.drm.org](http://handbook.drm.org)

---

All DRM Information at your fingertips:  
[pocket.drm.org](http://pocket.drm.org)

