Digital Radio Mondiale South Africa

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

16 JANUARY 2026

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

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

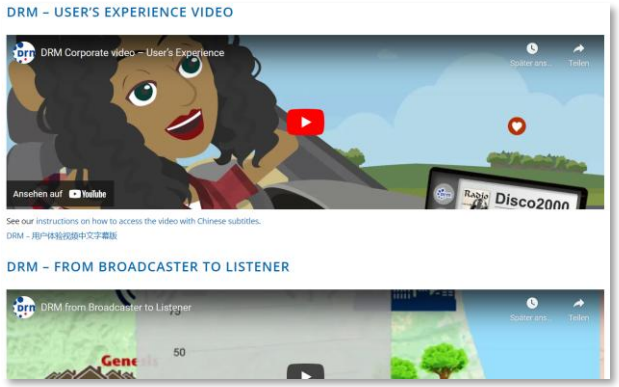
- We welcome the proposed study to identify the highest value uses and develop RFSAP
- Whilst DAB+ has been allocated 214-240 MHz, DRM + can work across VHF band III
- Both DAB and DRM are recognised by ITU. We therefore respectfully request that DRM be included in this band. Equipment exists for transmitting 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 trails & 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

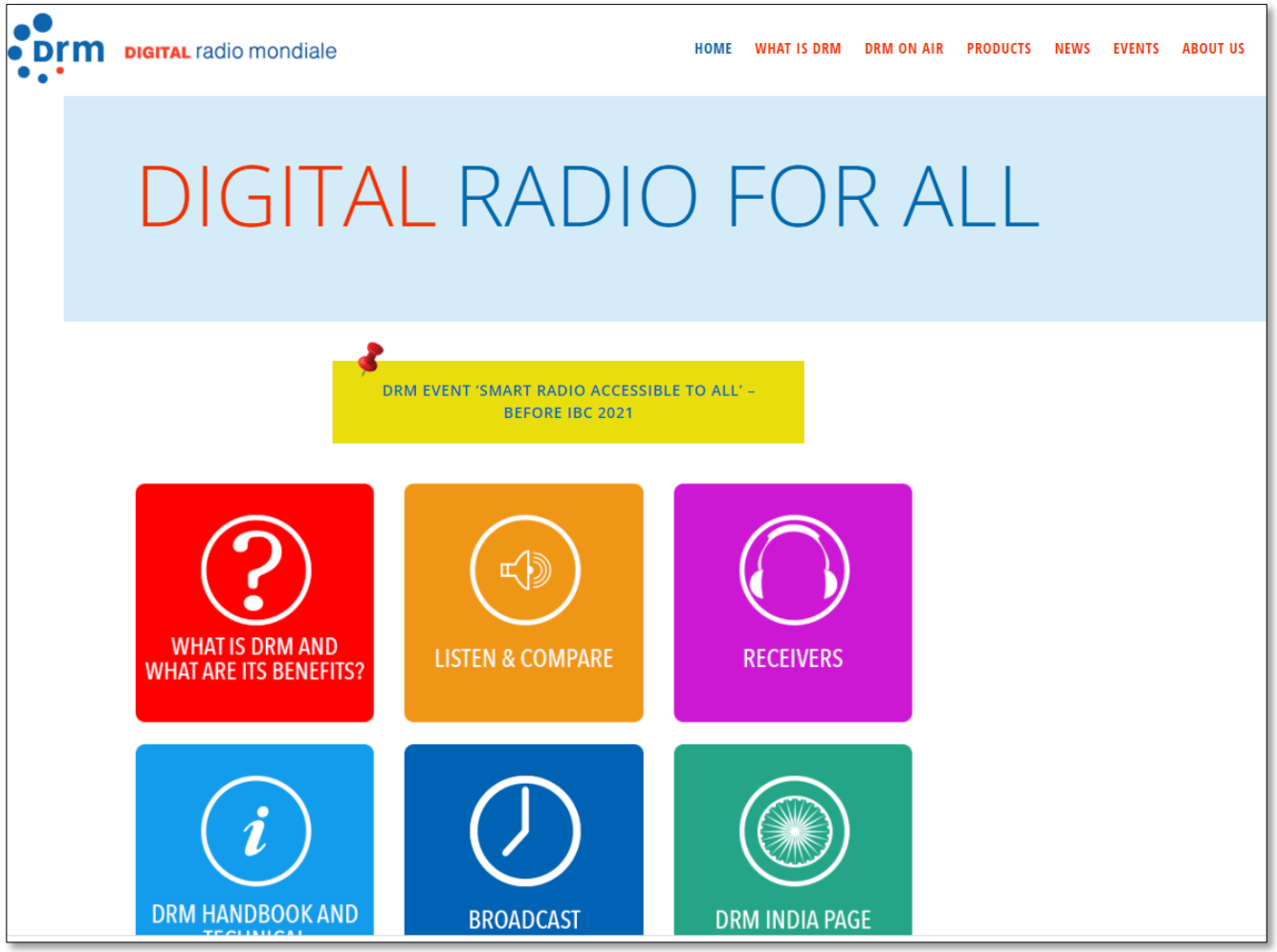
To access information on specific DRM subjects
type in your browser:
pocket.drm.org



Watch the DRM Corporate Videos:
videos.drm.org

Additional videos on DRM YouTube channel:
youtube.drm.org

DRM Smart Radio Benefitting All Listeners



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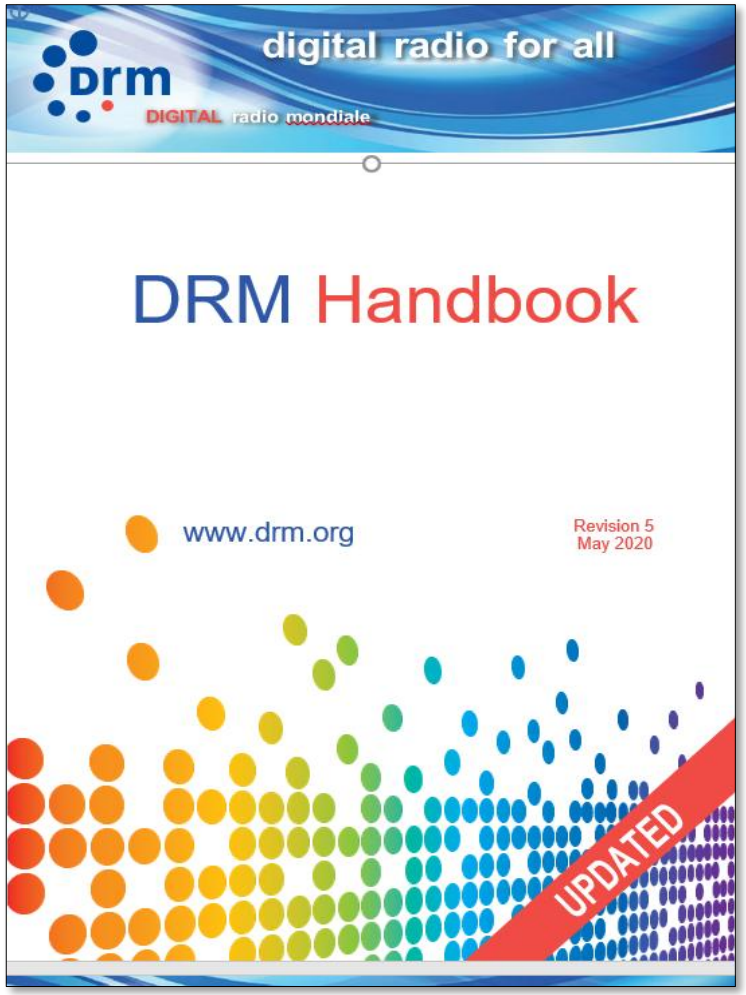
All you need to know about DRM Digital Radio

DRM Handbook
Version 5

Free download from:
handbook.drm.org



All DRM Information at your fingertips:
pocket.drm.org