

WorldDAB Position Paper on Traffic and Travel Information Services

On average, Europeans spend six years of their lives travelling, costing some 16% of their average income (source: ERTICO). Therefore Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS) such as car navigation systems attract ever increasing attention and are envisaged to create new markets for equipment manufacturers as well as offering new opportunities for service providers.

Broadcast Traffic and Travelling Information (TTI) services and applications are introduced to deliver data to ITS services and satisfy customer need for accurate and regularly up-dated information. RDS-TMC was developed to maximise use of the limited data capacity available in the RDS channel. Currently the more elaborated TPEG protocol is being developed for channels of higher capacity. This indicates that there will be a migration from present to more advanced TTI services.

WorldDAB Module 1 has studied the question of how TTI services using the different means available may be introduced in Digital Radio. In doing so, it brought together the different players, including service providers, broadcasters and consumer electronic manufacturers, to establish a common position, which is presented in this Position Paper, reflecting the main interests expressed by the different players. It should be noted that this Position Paper is not to be seen as resolving all the issues at stake, but rather as a common ground for the introduction of TTI services and products.

- RDS-TMC is used to convey broadcast TTI from a number of Service Providers in Europe and RDS-TMC decoders have been introduced in the market. Many Traffic Information Centres have been set up to collect traffic data, suitable for TTI services. In order to protect the investments of Service Providers and end-users, RDS-TMC services must continue for many years-to-come.
- The Eureka 147 DAB system is specified to carry TMC services and those who have invested in TMC may want to 'port' this work into DAB. Service Providers are encouraged to introduce DAB-TMC, either additional to the present RDS-TMC services or as new services.
- Manufacturers are encouraged to integrate TMC decoders in the next generation receivers, either as RDS-TMC or DAB-TMC or both.
- TPEG should be seen as a medium-to-long term alternative for TTI services. TPEG provides significant improvements in terms of range of services, market opportunities and suitability for decoders of different levels of functionality and complexity.

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- The rapid development of TPEG should proceed as smoothly as possible towards finalisation of standardisation and validation of the system. All relevant players are encouraged to support these developments, in order to prepare for a timely introduction of TPEG TTI applications and services.
- Broadcast TTI services are a vital element of many Service Providers' remit; they will also benefit navigation systems requiring dynamic information. It is understood that these systems should be able to use either a TMC data stream or a TPEG data stream or both. During a transition period, DAB could carry both TMC and TPEG in parallel.
- Service Providers and Manufactures are encouraged to continue negotiating and resolve the licensing and IPR issues associated with TTI services.

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References:

WorldDAB M1 TTI Task Force Working papers:

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