

International Symposium on DRM Digital Radio Broadcasting

9–12 October 2007 Moscow hosted the Symposium of the DRM Consortium Participants (DRM – Digital Radio Mondiale). The forum was organized by DRM Consortium in partnership with The Voice of Russia Radio Broadcasting Company and Deutsche Welle Radio Broadcasting Company. The delegations from Russia, Germany, Great Britain, France, Switzerland, India and CIS States discussed technological, legal and economic aspects of digital broadcasting in the above format.

The participants of the Symposium visited Taldom-Severnoy Transmitting Center where they were shown a DRM transmitter.

It is DRM Consortium that has been developing consolidated world system of digital radio broadcasting since 1998. More than hundred radio companies as well as developers and producers of radio sets and transmitters from different countries have become DRM Consortium Members. Among them are BBC, Deutsche Welle, Radio France International and several others. In DRM Consortium, Russia is represented by The Voice of Russia Radio Company and Russian Television and Radio Network State Enterprise.

It is common knowledge that The Voice of Russia pioneered digital radio broadcasting in Russia. Since 2003 The Voice of Russia has been transmitting daily programs in DRM format on Europe. These programs could be heard in four languages: Russian, English, German and French 10 hours a day. The programs in Chinese are transmitted 6 hours a day.

As Armen Oganessian, Chairman of The Voice of Russia, pointed out “our company is highly interested in broadcasting in DRM digital standard”. “This is the only system in the world working on short, medium and long waves that is open to all broadcasters,” he added.

Michel Penneroux, Chairman of the Commercial Committee of the DRM, stressed that The Voice of Russia, by its authority, influenced the rapid development of digital technologies in the field of radio broadcasting. He also pointed out that the representatives of industrial circles, producers of radio sets and transmitters taking part

in the symposium, obtained real results of changing over to digital radio broadcasting as well as of advantages of this broadcasting format.

On his part, Burkhard Bayer, representative of T-Systems International, informed the audience that in 2015 the analog broadcasting in Europe would cease to exist and be replaced by digital one. Russia, being one of the most active participants of DRM standard introduction, should not lose its leading role in this process, he said.

In his speech, Boris Antonyuk, Deputy Minister of Information Technologies and Communications of Russia noted a great importance of the symposium pointing out that this meeting is a real and practical step towards development of digital broadcasting in Russia. The Russian specialists have already responded to the technological challenge by creation of the first Russian DRM transmitter. The above transmitter, produced on a Sarapul Radio Plant, was demonstrated to the participants of the forum.

These transmitters differ a great deal from their predecessors. For example, along with sound signal one can transmit text information as well, or even illustrate it with a video row. Digital programs can be clearly heard all over the world within FM range as well as within short and medium waves. The importance of creation in Russia of the first DRM transmitter was also noted by Peter Senger, DRM Consortium Chairman. He considered the Russian transmitter to be of a high quality and expressed his confidence that reliable and inexpensive receivers of DRM standard would appear in other countries in the near future.

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