Is DRM+ the new frontier for digital radio?

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Abstract

DRM for FM in the Heart of Europe. In October 2021, a DRM test experiment in the FM band was launched in Copenhagen, Denmark. The frequency allocated is 86.5 MHz with a bandwidth of 200 kHz, which makes room for two DRM signals. Each DRM signal has a capacity of 186.4 kbps (16QAM, CR 5/8) and accommodates three audio stereo channels and multimedia services. Thus with the bandwidth of 200 kHz, a total of six digital radio stations can be broadcasted.

The test is done a bit below the regular FM band (band II 87.5-108 MHz), as there is no space for such in this dense region. The new receivers for FM/DRM can handle 64-108 MHz.

Open Channel is working on expanding the FM band in Denmark from 85 – 87.5 MHz, so that the Danish FM band goes from 85 to 108 MHz and thereby create more space for the introduction of digital radio on the FM band.

The test broadcasts is a collaboration organised by Open Channel, an independent Danish network operator in Copenhagen together with Canadian Nautel (Transmitter), German RFmondial (DRM modulator & Measuring instruments), Fraunhofer IIS (Content server) and Swedish Progira (Network planning).