



INDIAN DX CLUB INTERNATIONAL

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To
Shri Deepak Sharma, Advisor (B & CS),
Telecom Regulatory Authority of India

Subject: Comment on consultation paper No. 14/2024, on formulating a Digital Radio Broadcast Policy for Private Radio broadcasters

Sir,

Kindly allow me to introduce myself as an avid listener of radio since 1969. Apart from radio listening, I am also engaged in various activities to encourage broadcast radio listening during all these years. I was the Indian correspondent for the World Radio and TV Handbook (WRTVH) for many years. WRTVH, currently in the 79th year of its publication, is the World's most comprehensive and up-to-date guide to broadcasting.

These comments are being submitted for and on behalf of Indian DX Club International (IDXCI), G.P.O. Box 646, Kolkata 700001. The IDXCI is an association of radio listeners, headquartered in Kolkata, India. Among many activities of the club to promote radio listening, one important activity is to bring out a bulletin/publication since 1980 - "Asian DX Review". This publication caters to the varied interest of the radio listeners, is currently an online publication and distributed free.

Akashvani (Ex All India Radio) , the Indian public service broadcaster, for many years, has been using the Digital Mode 'Digital Radio Mondiale' (DRM) for MW & SW bands after a due consultation process/tests/studies etc. All newly deployed broadcast radio transmitters owned by the Akashvani in the Medium Wave & Shortwave band are equipped for using this mode of DRM. Even the two super power transmitters (one Megawatt each) are capable of transmitting programmes in DRM Mode and they use this mode to reach their targeted audience within the country and across the border.

Being a radio listener and an active general grade licensed Radio Amateur, I am the owner of three DRM Radio receivers, one of which has the latest SDR technology. I enjoy listening to programs in DRM mode. I strongly believe that many other radio listeners in this great country similarly enjoy DRM transmissions alongside the AM transmissions. Would also like to mention that the DRM Mode has developed strong and firm roots in this country which can be inferred from the fact that many automobile manufacturers have also allowed their customers in India to enjoy the DRM Mode of radio by fitting DRM Radio on the dashboard of the vehicles.

Different entities, while submitting their valuable comments on this consultation paper have proposed the use of different Digital Modes other than the DRM mode by the private FM Radio broadcasters. We as a nation should use DRM Mode as the single digital radio technology to avoid the vertical divide between the public service broadcaster and the private broadcasters along with the very low budget community broadcasters. This is because we

have DRM in use for many years in our country and the mode has been thoroughly tested and accepted by the professionals in the public broadcasting field. The FM broadcast stations, and the popular commercial FM stations should similarly also use the DRM mode in coming days.

Our nation is a developing nation. If another digital broadcast technology, say for example HD, is accepted and approved for the private broadcasters for the FM band digitization in the country than what is already in use, the citizens will be confused and will be driven away from the mode of radio listening as introduction of new digital technology will prove costly for the listeners. Every household, in that case, has to own more than one Digital Radio receiver!

In the above backdrop, a single digital broadcast technology will suit every stakeholder like Broadcasters, the Listeners as well as the Industry manufacturing and marketing equipment. Here the DRM technology, which is open standard, will prove beneficial for all of them.

With kind regards,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sudipta Ghose". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Sudipta Ghose, VU2UT
Secretary
For Indian DX Club
International