
The radio industry agrees to phase out FM in 2022/2023

Clear majority favour digital radio

Bern, 21 December 2020 – The radio industry has agreed to implement the switch from FM to digital broadcasting via DAB+ in 2022 and 2023. The members of the 'Verband Schweizer Privatradios' (VSP), the 'Union Romande des Radios Régionales' (RRR), the 'Union nicht-gewinnorientierter Lokalradios' (Unikom) and the Swiss Broadcasting Corporation (SRG SSR) approved the planned procedure in all parts of the country. The SRG SSR will switch off its FM transmitters in August 2022 and the private radio stations by January 2023 at the latest.

The positive signals from the market and the pleasing development of digital usage figures encouraged the 'Digital Migration' working group (DigiMig WG) to proceed with the FM switch-off. In summer 2020, the DigiMig WG drew up plans with the following key points: the SRG SSR will decommission its FM transmitters in August 2022 to make it easier for commercial broadcasters to switch over. The private radio stations will then deactivate their FM transmitters by January 2023 at the latest.

Agreement in all parts of the country

The 'Verband Schweizer Privatradios' (VSP), the 'Union Romande des Radios Régionales' (RRR) and the 'Union nicht-gewinnorientierter Lokalradios' (Unikom) had secured the agreement of their members to the planned procedure by the end of November 2020. The majorities required to phase out FM in 2022/2023 were obtained in all three parts of Switzerland by a clear margin. This means FM switch-off will be implemented within the planned timeframe.

'Digital Migration' working group (DigiMig)

In spring 2013, the radio industry, together with the Federal Office of Communications (OFCOM), founded the 'Digital Migration' working group (DigiMig WG) with the aim of phasing out analogue FM broadcasting by 2024 at the latest. The working group has representatives from the 'Verband Schweizer Privatradios' (VSP), the 'Union Romande des Radios Régionales' (RRR), the 'Union nicht-gewinnorientierter Lokalradios' (Unikom), the Swiss Broadcasting Corporation SRG SSR and the DAB+ network operators.

At the end of 2014, the DigiMig WG submitted a scenario for the migration from analogue to digital broadcasting to the Federal Council. Today, the SRG SSR and all private radio stations also broadcast their radio programme services via DAB+ as well as on FM. Over half of the around 125 DAB+ radio stations can only be received in digital format.

Contact details for further questions

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