



DIGITAL SOUND BROADCASTING LICENCE TEMPLATES

November 2024

Consultation Version

Abbreviations and acronyms

| | |
|-------|--|
| DSB | Digital Sound Broadcasting |
| DSO | Digital Switchover |
| DTT | Digital Terrestrial Television |
| DVB-T | Digital Video Broadcasting - Terrestrial |
| EEP | Equal Error Protection |
| EPG | Electronic Programme Guide |
| FM | Frequency Modulation |
| ITU | International Telecommunications Union |
| Kbps | Kilobits per second |
| MHz | MegaHertz |
| MP2 | File extension for MPEG-1 Audio Stream, Layer II file format |
| MPEG | Moving Picture Experts Group |
| PSB | Public Service Broadcasting |
| RF | Radio Frequency |
| SFN | Single-frequency network |
| SI | Service Information |

Abbreviations

1. *Are there any other abbreviations you would like to be included? Provide proposals*

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Definitions

In this document, it is proposed that unless the context otherwise indicates, a word or expression to which a meaning has been assigned in the Act, has the meaning so assigned as follows.

“Act” means the Kenya Information and Communications Act, Cap 411A any successor legislation and any subsequent amendments made thereto;

“Analogue sound broadcasting” means terrestrial broadcasting where the sound broadcast signal is in analogue format and “analogue sound broadcast” shall be construed accordingly;

“Applicant” means a person applying to provide a broadcasting service in terms of the Processes and Procedures Regulations;

“Broadcasting Signal Distribution” means the process whereby the output signal of a broadcasting service is taken from the point of origin, being the point where such signal is made available in its final content format, from where it is conveyed, to any broadcast target area, by means of electronic communications and includes multi-channel distribution;

“Digital Sound Broadcasting (DSB)” means an audio broadcasting technology intended to deliver superior quality sound using digital communications technology. It is a digital signal delivery system capable of delivering sound and data;

“Digital sound broadcasting services” means a broadcasting service delivered over a DSB platform.

“Multi-channel distributor” has the same meaning as defined in the Act;

“Multiplexer” means a device or unit that combines multiple analogue or digital signals into a single data stream over a shared medium or platform;

“Licensee” has the same meaning as defined in the Act;

“Radio Frequency Spectrum Licence” has the same meaning as defined in the Act;

“Simulcast” means a simultaneous transmission of the same sound broadcasting service on two or more channels or media;

“Sound broadcasting service” has the same meaning as defined in the Act;

Definitions

1. Do you agree with the proposed definitions? If not, propose improved definitions
2. Provide any other applicable comments in this section

1. Background

The Authority developed a digital sound broadcasting framework in FY2022/23 to guide the introduction of digital radio broadcasting services in Kenya, and the Board approved it. In FY 2023/24, the Authority finalized the development of the DSB licensing framework in preparation for the implementation of the DSB framework. The digital sound broadcasting licensing framework outlines the procedure and license categories to be issued by the Authority for DSB infrastructure and services, and the same was approved by the Board in May 2024.

In readiness for the implementation of the DSB licensing framework planned for FY 2025/26, the Authority has developed draft licence templates for the proposed DSB services that are aligned with the DSB licensing framework.

The draft licenses covering DSB infrastructure and DSB services prescribe licence terms and conditions that entities must comply with to be licensed under the DSB licensing framework.

2. Highlights of DSB Licences

The draft licence templates for the DSB signal distribution services and the DSB services are meant to be issued to entities interested in being licensed under the DSB licensing framework following the due process for licensing.

These licence terms and conditions contained herein have been benchmarked from existing broadcasting service licences and unified license framework (ULF) licence terms and conditions before being customized to accommodate DSB.

Table 1 provides a summary of key highlights of the various licence terms/conditions

Table 1: Summary of DSB Licence Terms and Conditions

| No. | Licence | Terms and Conditions |
|-----|---|---|
| 1. | National common carrier Broadcast Signal Distribution | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Existing licence category under DTT issued to SIGNET and PANG.Changes were made to the licence terms and conditions introducing the aspect of digital sound broadcasting Quality of Service requirement that will be included in the licence. |
| 2. | National Digital Sound Broadcast Signal Distribution | <ul style="list-style-type: none">New licence category to address digital sound broadcasting only.Hybrid of relevant Licence Terms and conditions derived from common carrier BSD and Self Provisioning BSD licences customized for this licence.Allows provision of national DSB coverage. |

| No. | Licence | Terms and Conditions |
|-----|--|--|
| 3. | Local/Regional Sound Broadcast Signal Distribution | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New licence category to address digital sound broadcasting only. • Licence Terms and conditions for Self-Provisioning BSD licence customised for this licence. • Limit coverage to up to 6 contiguous Counties. |
| 4. | Public Digital Sound Broadcasting service | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New licence category for DSB reserved for designated public broadcaster. • Appropriate Licence Terms and conditions for Public Free to Air television licence adopted for this licence. |
| 5. | Public Commercial Digital Sound Broadcasting Service | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New licence category for DSB reserved for designated public broadcaster operating a commercial digital radio service • Appropriate Licence Terms and conditions for Commercial Free to Air television licence customised for this licence |
| 6. | Commercial Digital Sound Broadcasting service | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New licence category to address digital sound broadcasting operated for commercial purposes by other entities other than the designated public broadcaster. • Appropriate Licence Terms and conditions for Commercial Free to Air television licence customised for this licence. |
| 7. | Community Digital Sound Broadcasting service | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New licence category to address digital sound broadcasting only. • Appropriate Licence Terms and conditions for Community Free to Air television licence adopted for this licence. • Coverage areas will be limited to communities of interest. |

The draft licence templates containing proposed licence terms and conditions for the above different categories of DSB signal distribution and sound broadcasting services are attached as Annexes 1A,1B,1C,2A,2B,2C and 2D.

DSB signal distribution Licences

1. Do you agree with the proposed licence terms and conditions for digital sound broadcasting signal distribution ? If no, provide your proposals

2. Provide any other applicable comments in this section

DSB Services Licences

1. Do you agree with the proposed licence terms and conditions digital sound broadcasting services? If no, provide your proposals
2. Provide any other applicable comments in this section

Quality of Service Parameters for DSB Licences

1. What Quality of Service Parameters do you propose to be incorporated in the licence for digital sound broadcasting signal distribution services? Propose what element and proposed key performance indicators to be monitored by the Authority
2. What Quality of Service Parameters do you propose to be incorporated in the licence for digital sound broadcasting services? Propose what element and proposed key performance indicators to be monitored by the Authority

3. Proposed Roadmap

The proposed roadmap on key implementation and action items is as detailed in the table below

Table 2: Implementation Roadmap

| No | Activity | Status/ projected Target |
|-----------|--|---------------------------------|
| 1. | Development draft licence templates for DSB infrastructure and services | Q1 FY 2024/25 |
| 2. | Public Consultation on the draft licence templates for DSB infrastructure and services | Q2 FY 2024/25 |
| 3. | Stakeholder validation workshop on draft licence templates for DSB infrastructure and services | Q3 FY 2024/25 |
| 4. | Incorporation of comments and inputs received from the public on the draft licence templates for DSB infrastructure and services | Q3 FY 2024/25 |

| No | Activity | Status/ Target projected |
|-----------|---|--|
| 5. | Licensing DSB infrastructure and services | FY 2025/26 |

Proposed Roadmap



1. Do you have any views about the proposed DSB licences roadmap? Provide detailed comments and any justification to support your views.



Other General consultation Questions


- 1. Are there other areas in your view that should be included in the DSB License? If yes, provide relevant proposals and justifications for the same*


ANNEXES

Annex 1A: Draft Common Carrier BSD Licence Terms and Conditions  ANNEX 1A- COMMON CARRIER  FREQ LICENCE COMMON CARRIER

Annex 1B: Draft National DSB BSD Licence Terms and Conditions  ANNEX 1B- NATIONAL DIGITAL  Freq licence digital sound BSD

Annex 1C: Draft local/regional DSB SD Licence Terms and Conditions  ANNEX 1C-LOCAL & REGIONAL BSD  Freq licence Digital sound BSD

Annex 2A: Draft public DSB service Licence Terms and Conditions  ANNEX 2A-PUBLIC DSB SERVICE

Annex 2B: Draft public commercial DSB service Licence Terms and Conditions  ANNEX 2B-PUBLIC COMMERCIAL DSB

Annex 2C: Draft commercial DSB service Licence Terms and Conditions  ANNEX 2C- COMMERCIAL DSB

Annex 2D: Draft community DSB service Licence Terms and Conditions  ANNEX 2D- COMMUNITY DSB