**DMR Overview**

In the ever ongoing effort to squeeze more capacity out of a finite resource, the electro-magnetic spectrum, a new digital standard — Digital Mobile radio (DMR) is becoming more and more popular. Whereas the older analogue PMR (Private Mobile Radio) requires 25 kHz channels or for newer systems 12.5 kHz, DMR offers two channels within 12.5 kHz. DMR offers both voice and data communications and interfacing to external networks. Voice communications offer features as call alert, emergency call, remote monitoring, silent worker, Push-to-Talk ID, radio check, all call, stunning etc. DMR has been standardized by ETSI. The standard describes three tiers of DMR services:

- **Tier I**: Direct mode communication without infrastructure
- **Tier II**: Direct mode (unit-to-unit) or using a base station (BS) for repeating
- **Tier III**: Trunking protocol with a controller managing communications, including simulcast and multicast

To distinguish between adjacent and repeater stations with overlapping coverage, DMR introduces the concept of Color Code. Interlinking of repeaters or base stations is outside the scope of the ETSI standard, but Motorola’s implementation of DMR called Mototrbo allows this feature using an ordinary IP connection.

**DMR Protocol Stack**

The air interface physical layer is responsible for:
- modulation and demodulation
- transmitter and receiver switching
- HF characteristics
- bits and symbol definition
- frequency and symbol synchronization
- burst building

The data link layer main functions are:
- channel coding
- media access control
- link addressing
- interfacing of voice
- data bearer services
- acknowledgement mechanisms
- interleaving

The third layer is the call control layer in the control plane which provides:
- base station activation and deactivation
- call setup, maintenance and tear-down
- destination addressing
- built-in services
- data call control
- announcement signaling

DMR uses 4FSK modulation at 4800 symbols/second with the dibits mapped to +1944 Hz, +648 Hz, -648 Hz and -1944 Hz in relation to the center frequency.

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**Fig. 1 DMR protocol stack**
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DMR Air Interface

DMR supports 2-channel TDMA (Time Division Multiple Access). In fig. 2 below the outbound (from a base station) is labeled “BS TX” and the inbound (from a mobile station) “MS TX”. Each burst is 30 ms long. Two bursts constitute a frame and 6 frames constitute a super frame used for voice transmissions.

![Figure 2: Two-frequency TDMA timing](image)

The outbound channel is continuously transmitted when the BS (Base Station) is active, whereas the MS (Mobile Station) will stop transmission when it has no more traffic to transmit. The outbound channel contains a Common Announcement Channel (CACH), between individual bursts, used for traffic channel management and signaling. The inbound channel has an empty guard time between the bursts to allow for propagation delays. Finally a synchronization or signaling field is embedded in the centre of the burst. The BS and MS burst and frame structures are shown in fig. 3, fig. 4 and fig. 5.

![Figure 3: DMR frame structure](image)
DMR also supports a Reverse Channel (RC) which is used for signaling. In the outbound direction the RC replaces the burst center sync field, whereas in the inbound direction a special short burst is used, see fig. 6.

For voice transmissions a super frame of use several burst and timeslots, see fig. 7. The individual voice bursts are labeled from A to F.
DMR also has the ability for text messaging using either the Short Data Service, a SMS-like function or IP datagram’s, see fig. 8. The ability to use IP facilitates the integration with other IP networks. A DMR terminal has its own IP address and contains a DHCP server, which allocates IP addresses to peripheral devices. These devices often connect physically via a USB connector.

![Fragmentation of IP datagram](image)

**Fig. 8 Fragmentation of IP datagram**

Wavecom DMR decoder works with all equipments compatible to the ETSI standard, e.g., MOTOTRBO series from Motorola and Hytera DMR devices. The current implementation complies with the ETSI DMR standard series:
- ETSI TS 102 361-1 V2.3.1 (2013-7)
- ETSI TS 102 361-2 V2.2.1 (2013-7)
- ETSI TS 102 361-3 V1.2.1 (2013-7) and

It covers all three layers of the DMR protocol stack:
- Layer 1: Air interface physical layer
- Layer 2: Air interface data link layer and
- Layer 3: Air interface call control layer.

Wavecom DMR mode covers all three tier services (Tier I: direct mode; Tier II: direct mode and base station communication; Tier III: trunking protocol). It decodes text, voice and service messages. Voice is decoded and output to the speaker for live monitoring. All voice sessions are saved in WAV files. The two TDMA slots are sorted in two separate windows for clear display. The following two W-CODE screen shots show a DMR data and voice test transmission and real communication on a base station, respectively.
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Fig. 9 W-CODE DMR decoding voice and data test messages
Since more than thirty years Wavecom Elektronik AG has developed, manufactured and distributed high quality devices and software for the decoding and retrieval of information from wireless data communication in all frequency bands. The nature of the data communication may be arbitrary, but commonly contains text, images and voice. The company is internationally established within this industry and maintains a longstanding, world-wide network of distributors and business partners.

Product Information

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System Requirements

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Distributors and Regional Contacts

You will find a list of distributors and regional contacts at http://www.wavecom.ch/distributors.php