

ETSI TS 101 545-1 V1.3.1 (2020-07)



**Digital Video Broadcasting (DVB);
Second Generation DVB
Interactive Satellite System (DVB-RCS2);
Part 1: Overview and System Level specification**

EBU DVB[®]

ReferenceRTS/JTC-DVB-384-1

KeywordsDVB, interaction, satellite

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Foreword

This Technical Specification (TS) has been produced by Joint Technical Committee (JTC) Broadcast of the European Broadcasting Union (EBU), Comité Européen de Normalisation ELECTrotechnique (CENELEC) and the European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI).

NOTE: The EBU/ETSI JTC Broadcast was established in 1990 to co-ordinate the drafting of standards in the specific field of broadcasting and related fields. Since 1995 the JTC Broadcast became a tripartite body by including in the Memorandum of Understanding also CENELEC, which is responsible for the standardization of radio and television receivers. The EBU is a professional association of broadcasting organizations whose work includes the co-ordination of its members' activities in the technical, legal, programme-making and programme-exchange domains. The EBU has active members in about 60 countries in the European broadcasting area; its headquarters is in Geneva.

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The Digital Video Broadcasting Project (DVB) is an industry-led consortium of broadcasters, manufacturers, network operators, software developers, regulatory bodies, content owners and others committed to designing global standards for the delivery of digital television and data services. DVB fosters market driven solutions that meet the needs and economic circumstances of broadcast industry stakeholders and consumers. DVB standards cover all aspects of digital television from transmission through interfacing, conditional access and interactivity for digital video, audio and data. The consortium came together in 1993 to provide global standardisation, interoperability and future proof specifications.

The present document is part 1 of a multi-part deliverable covering the DVB Interactive Satellite System specification, as identified below:

ETSI TS 101 545-1: "Overview and System Level specification";

ETSI EN 301 545-2: "Lower Layers for Satellite standard";

ETSI TS 101 545-3: "Higher Layers Satellite Specification";

ETSI TR 101 545-4: "Guidelines for Implementation and Use of EN 301 545-2";

ETSI TR 101 545-5: "Guidelines for the Implementation and Use of TS 101 545-3".

Modal verbs terminology

In the present document "**shall**", "**shall not**", "**should**", "**should not**", "**may**", "**need not**", "**will**", "**will not**", "**can**" and "**cannot**" are to be interpreted as described in clause 3.2 of the [ETSI Drafting Rules](#) (Verbal forms for the expression of provisions).

"**must**" and "**must not**" are **NOT** allowed in ETSI deliverables except when used in direct citation.

Introduction

ETSI EN 301 790 [1] defines the first generation of DVB-RCS which is a system providing an interaction channel for satellite distribution systems. Together with its guidelines (ETSI TR 101 790 [i.1]) the present document describes how such system can be built on the physical and MAC layers to provide an efficient way of turning a satellite broadcast TV into a full VSAT solution capable of transporting IP traffic in a satellite-only system.

Since the original definition of DVB-RCS systems, several versions of the standard were issued, describing the requirements for the implementation of a system providing an interaction channel for satellite distribution systems.

The sum of these specifications allowed to adapt the DVB-RCS systems to different market segments from small to large networks and from fixed to mobile terminals but it appears that the evolutions of the physical layer techniques and the stabilization of IP standards now deserves deeper changes which can only be implemented in a consistent way via the definition of a second generation system.

The requirements in the present document have been introduced in order to provide the best possible interoperability between terminals and hubs, thus defining not only the lower layers of the system (up to layer 2) but also network functions as well as management and control capabilities.

As these requirements combined together may end up in a very complex terminal design, the present document also describes subsets of capabilities known as profiles that can be used together to address a given market segment.

1 Scope

The present document establishes the system specifications for the 2nd Generation Interactive DVB Satellite System (DVB-RCS2) and represents the first part of the multi-part specification of that system. It also gives links to the adequate sections into the detailed specification documents and explains how the features should be combined together to make a terminal compliant with different subsets of specifications mentioned here as profiles.

General terms and definitions are given in the present document which can be found also in the other parts of the DVB-RCS2 multi-part specification.

2 References

2.1 Normative references

References are either specific (identified by date of publication and/or edition number or version number) or non-specific. For specific references, only the cited version applies. For non-specific references, the latest version of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

Referenced documents which are not found to be publicly available in the expected location might be found at <https://docbox.etsi.org/Reference/>.

NOTE: While any hyperlinks included in this clause were valid at the time of publication, ETSI cannot guarantee their long term validity.

The following referenced documents are necessary for the application of the present document.

- [1] ETSI EN 301 790: "Digital Video Broadcasting (DVB); Interaction channel for satellite distribution systems".
- [2] ETSI EN 301 545-2: "Digital Video Broadcasting (DVB); Second Generation DVB Interactive Satellite System (DVB-RCS2); Part 2: Lower Layers for Satellite standard".
- [3] ETSI TS 101 545-3: "Digital Video Broadcasting (DVB); Second Generation DVB Interactive Satellite System (DVB-RCS2); Part 3: Higher Layers Satellite Specification".
- [4] IETF RFC 3917: "Requirements for IP Flow Information Export (IPFIX)".
- [5] IETF RFC 5474: "A Framework for Packet Selection and Reporting".
- [6] IETF RFC 1213: "Management Information Base for Network Management of TCP/IP-based internets: MIB-II".
- [7] IETF RFC 1901: "Introduction to Community-based SNMPv2".
- [8] IETF RFC 1908: "Coexistence between Version 1 and Version 2 of the Internet-standard Network Management Framework".
- [9] EUTELSAT, European Telecommunication Satellite Organization: "Digital Satellite Equipment Control (DiSEqC™) Bus specification".
- [10] IETF RFC 5728: "The SatLabs Group DVB-RCS MIB".

2.2 Informative references

References are either specific (identified by date of publication and/or edition number or version number) or non-specific. For specific references, only the cited version applies. For non-specific references, the latest version of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

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The following referenced documents are not necessary for the application of the present document but they assist the user with regard to a particular subject area.

- [i.1] ETSI TR 101 790: "Digital Video Broadcasting (DVB); Interaction channel for Satellite Distribution Systems; Guidelines for the use of EN 301 790".
- [i.2] ETSI TS 101 545-1 (V1.2.1): "Digital Video Broadcasting (DVB); Second Generation DVB Interactive Satellite System (DVB-RCS2); Part 1: Overview and System Level specification".

3 Definition of terms, symbols and abbreviations

3.1 Terms

For the purposes of the present document, the following terms apply:

control plane: communications that carry mainly signalling information

layer 1 mesh overlay system: satellite interactive network that supplements the unidirectional satellite link from a TDM feeder to RCSTs and the unidirectional satellite link from RCSTs to an MF-TDMA gateway with two-way satellite links between the RCSTs

NOTE: In such systems, the NCC is connected to the RCST via the feeder and gateway.

layer 1 regenerative and re-multiplexing system: satellite interactive network that relies on an on-board regenerative processor to demodulate upcoming MF-TDMA data from terminals and generate a TDM downlink signal with this data

NOTE: Such system looks like an RCS second generation system from the layer 1 RCSTs perspective.

management plane: communications that carry information to maintain the network and to perform operational functions

user plane: communications that carry user information

3.2 Symbols

For the purposes of the present document, the following symbols apply:

α	Roll-off factor
E_b/N_0	Ratio between the energy per information bit and single sided noise power spectral density
E_s/N_0	Ratio between the energy per transmitted symbol and single sided noise power spectral density
f_0	Carrier frequency
f_N	Nyquist frequency
NR_{max}	Number of replicas in a frame
N_{rand}	12-bit random number used as a random seed value during CRDSA frame decoding
N_{slots}	Number of the slots in the frame
R_s	Symbol rate corresponding to the bilateral Nyquist bandwidth of the modulated signal

3.3 Abbreviations

For the purposes of the present document, the following abbreviations apply:

ACM	Adaptive Coding and Modulation
BPSK	Binary Phase Shift Keying
CCM	Constant Coding and Modulation
CLI	Command Line Interface
CPM	Continuous Phase Modulation (or Modulator)
CRC	Cyclic Redundancy Check
CRC32	Cyclic Redundancy Check (32 bits)
CRDSA	Contention Resolution DSA
CSC	Common Signalling Channel
DA	Dedicated Access
DAMA	Demand Assignment Multiple Access
DCP	Dynamic Connectivity Protocol
DHCP	Dynamic Host Control Protocol
DL	DownLink
DoS	Denial-of-Services
DSA	Diversity Slotted Aloha
DTP	Digital Transparent Processor
DVB-RCS	Digital Video Broadcasting Return Channel by Satellite
DVB-RCS2	Digital Video Broadcasting - Interactive Satellite System, Return Channel by Satellite second generation
DVB-S	Digital Video Broadcasting by Satellite
DVB-S2	Digital Video Broadcasting - Second generation framing structure, channel coding and modulation systems for Broadcasting, Interactive Services, News Gathering and other broadband satellite applications
DVB-S2X	Digital Video Broadcasting - Second generation framing structure, channel coding and modulation systems for Broadcasting, Interactive Services, News Gathering and other broadband satellite applications: S2-Extensions
DVB-S2(X)	DVB-S2 / DVB-S2X
EIRP	Equivalent Isotropic Radiated Power
FEC	Forward Error Correction
FL	Forward Link
GS	Generic Stream
GSE	Generic Stream Encapsulation
GW	GateWay
HAIPE	High Assurance Internet Protocol Encryptor
HTTP	Hyper Text Transfer Protocol
ID	IDentifier
IN	Interactive Network
IPDR	Internet Protocol Detail Record
IPFIX	Internet Protocol Flow Information Export
IPv4	Internet Protocol, version 4
IPv6	Internet Protocol, version 6
ISI	Input Stream Identifier
LL	Link Layer
MAC	Medium Access Control
MF-TDMA	Multiple-Frequency Time-Division Multiple Access
MIB	Management Information Base
MPE	Multi-Protocol Encapsulation
MPLS	Multiprotocol Label Switching
MUC	Multiplier Up Converter
NCC	Network Control Center
NCR	Network Control Reference
NMC	Network Management Center
OBP	On-Board Processor
OSPF	Open Shortest Path First
OVN	Operator Virtual Networks
PEP	Performance Enhancing Proxy

PSAMP	Packet Sampling
PSK	Phase Shift Keying
QAM	Quadrature Amplitude Modulation
QoS	Quality of Service
RCS	Return Channel Satellite
RCST	Return Channel Satellite Terminal
RL	Return Link
RLE	RL Encapsulation
RSGW	Regenerative Satellite GateWay
SCADA	Supervisory Control And Data Acquisition
SDDP	Software and Data Distribution Protocol
SLA	Service Level Agreement
SNMP	Simple Network Management Protocol
SNO	Satellite Network Operator
SO	Satellite Operator
SVN	Satellite Virtual Network
SVNO	Satellite Virtual Network Operator
TCP	Transmission Control Protocol
TDM	Time-Division Mode
TLS	Transport Layer Security
TRANSEC	TRANSMission SECurity
TS	MPEG2 Transport Stream
TS-GW	Transparent Satellite GateWay
TX	Transmit
UL	UpLink
VSAT	Very Small Aperture Terminal
XML	eXtensible Markup Language

4 System definition

4.1 General

DVB-RCS2 is the standard conceived to provide a standardised broadband interactivity connection as an extension of the Digital Video Broadcasting Satellite systems. It defines the MAC and physical layer protocols of the air interface used between the satellite operator hub and the interactive user terminal as well as the network layer and the essential functions of the management and control planes of the terminal. It embraces the GSE and the DVB-S2(X) standards implemented in the commercial broadcasting environment, exploiting economics of scale.

In order to provide a real interoperability, the DVB-RCS2 specification describes Higher layers components adapted to satellite interactive systems. These component are parts of control and management planes and rely mainly on DVB and IETF standards or are derived from them.

A typical DVB-RCS2 Network will utilize a satellite with multi or single beam coverage. In most networks, the satellite carrying the forward link signal will also support the return link. The forward link carries signalling from the NCC and user traffic to RCSTs. The signalling from the Network Control Centre (NCC) to RCSTs that is required to operate the return link system is called "Forward Link Signalling". A Network Management Centre (NMC) provides overall management of the system elements and manages the Service Level Agreement (SLA) assigned to each RCST.

The following network topologies are addressed by the present document:

- Transparent star network system.
- Transparent star network system with contention access.
- Transparent mesh overlay network system.
- Regenerative mesh network system.

These network topologies can be summarized in two main reference architectures, shown in figures 1 and 2 hereafter, transparent and regenerative. The actors of both interactive systems are the same and can be observed in figure 3.

- Transparent system description shows both transparent star and mesh overlay network topologies and has the following components:
 - Transparent satellite(s). One or more transparent satellites provide the link between terminals and the Hub, or among terminals for the transparent mesh system. Digital Transparent Processor (DTP) payloads can also give multi-beam connectivity.
 - Hub/NCC. Performs the control (NCC), management (NMC) functions and interfaces user plane (traffic gateway) functions.
 - Star terminals (RCSTs). The star transparent terminal complies with the requirements of the DVB-RCS2 standard, providing star connectivity, or mesh connectivity with a double satellite hop.
 - Mesh overlay transparent terminals (RCSTs). The mesh overlay transparent terminals comply with the requirements of the DVB-RCS2 standard, providing star connectivity, mesh connectivity with a double satellite hop, and also mesh connectivity with a single satellite hop. The transparent mesh overlay terminal is more complex, it includes two or more demodulators adapted to DVB-S2(X) or RCST-TX waveforms as defined in DVB-RCS2.
 - Gateway RCST (GW-RCST). This a mesh RCST with SLA enforcement functions that takes the GW role. A GW-RCST provides mesh RCST users with access to terrestrial networks. There may be one GW-RCST giving service to a small number of terminals, or to a large number of terminals. Essentially, each comprise one RCST, plus an SLA Enforcer and an access router, but may also include VoIP telephony servers, traffic acceleration servers, and backhaul modules.

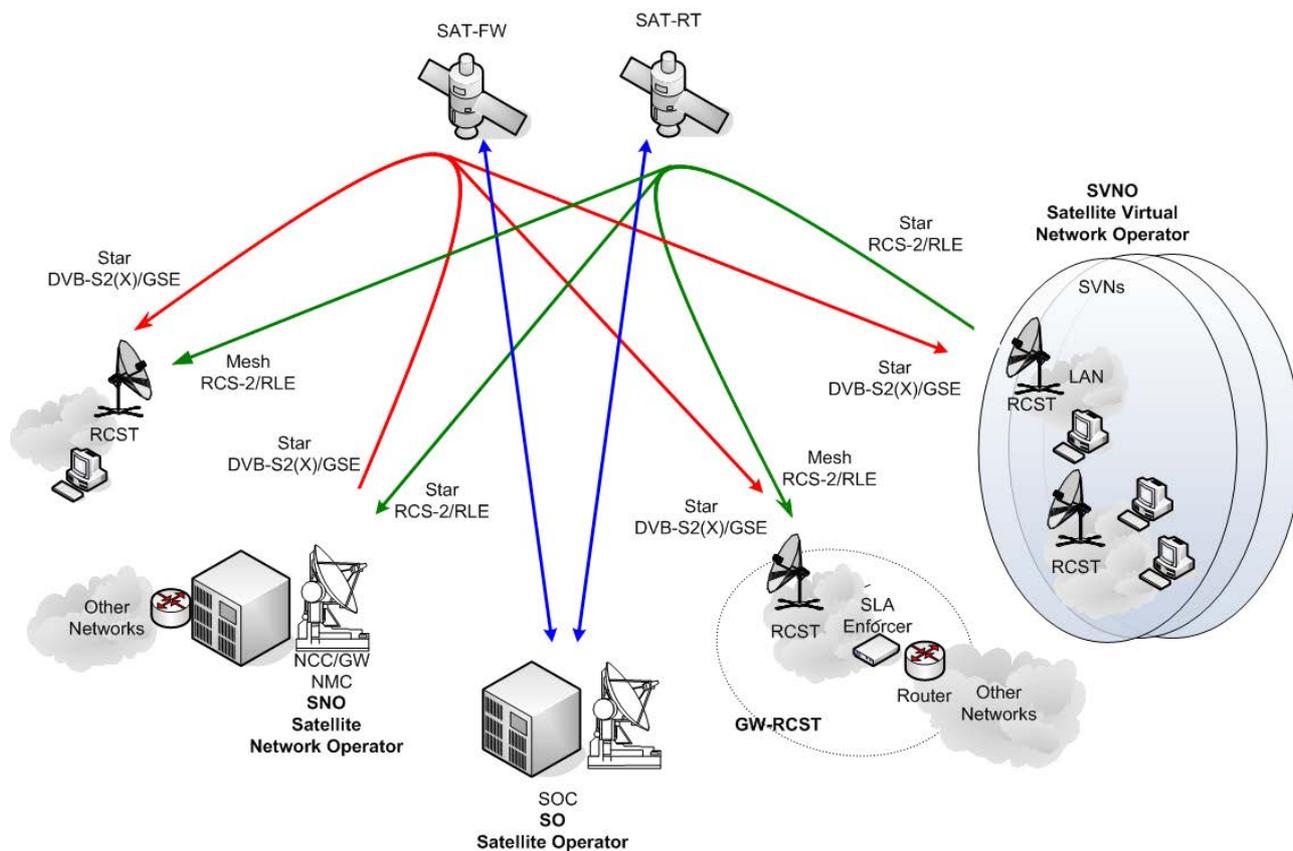


Figure 1: Main roles in a DVB-RCS2 transparent satellite interactive network

4.2 System Roles

The system roles considered in a DVB-RCS2 interactive system are presented in the model shown in figure 3.

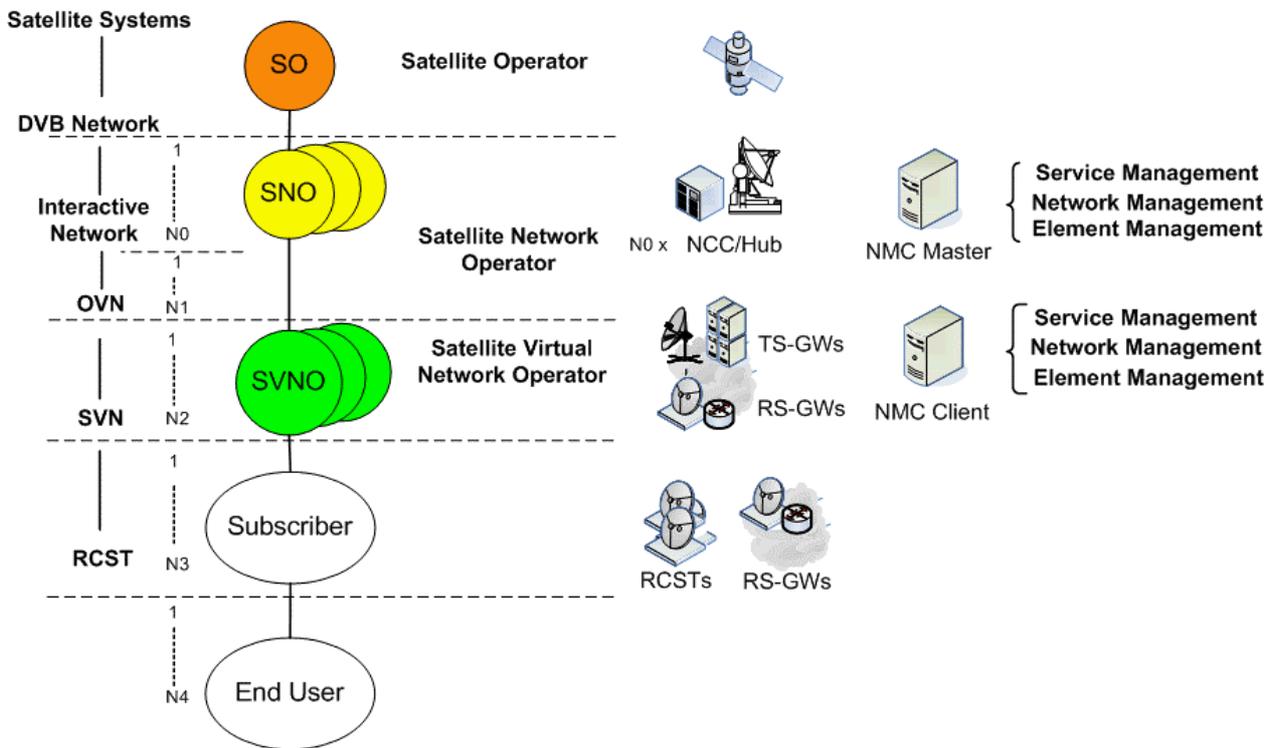


Figure 3: DVB-RCS2 actors and roles

- 1) Satellite Operator (SO), who manages the whole satellite, and sells capacity at transponder level to one or several SNOs.
- 2) Satellite Network Operators (SNO), are assigned one or more satellite transponders. Each SNO owns one or more NCC/NMC, and configures the time/frequency plan. Each SNO is responsible for one IN, corresponding to one DVB network (identified by the Network_ID), controlling their own capacity. The SNO may divide the interactive network into one or more Operator Virtual Networks (OVN). Each OVN is an independently managed higher layer network, and is managed by a SVNO. SNOs distribute their own physical and logical resources among OVNs. In the transparent architecture the SNO owns the TS-GW.
- 3) Satellite Virtual Network Operators (SVNO), are assigned one or more Operator Virtual Networks (OVN), each being given some physical and logical resources. An active RCST can only be a member of one OVN, This is assigned at logon to the DVB-RCS2 Network. Each OVN is assigned a pool of SVN numbers from which it can allocate SVN-MAC addresses. The SVN concept is used to logically divide the addressing space controlled by the operator. SVNOs sell connectivity services to their subscribers and for the regenerative architecture may also manage one or several RSGWs.
- 4) Subscriber (RCST), are the user stations, which they contract to the SVNOs.
- 5) End-user are the final actors enjoying the satellite services, connected to the RCST LAN interface.

4.3 Physical layer

The physical layer of a DVB-RCS2 compliant terminal operating in a DVB-RCS2 system shall comply with the requirements defined in ETSI EN 301 545-2 [2]. Not all specifications need to be implemented depending on the terminal profile (see table 3) and also on supported options (see table 2). The specification of the elements which are optional or normative as well as the profiles and their related options are described in clause 4.11.

4.4 Access layer

The access layer of a DVB-RCS2 compliant terminal operating in a DVB-RCS2 system shall comply with the requirements defined in ETSI EN 301 545-2 [2]. Not all specifications need to be implemented depending on the terminal profile (see table 3) and also on supported options (see table 2). The specification of the elements which are optional or normative as well as the profiles and their related options are described in clause 4.11.

4.5 System architecture

The architecture of a DVB-RCS2 compliant terminal shall be compatible with the system architecture specified in ETSI TS 101 545-3 [3].

4.6 Network layer

The network layer of a DVB-RCS2 compliant terminal shall follow the requirements indicated in ETSI TS 101 545-3 [3]. Some of these specifications are optional and may be required to meet some of the defined terminals profiles, refer to clause 4.11 of the present document for the details of these specifications.

4.7 Management functions

The management functions of a DVB-RCS2 compliant terminal shall follow the requirements indicated in ETSI TS 101 545-3 [3]. Some of these specifications are optional and may be required to meet some of the defined terminals profiles, refer to clause 4.11 of the present document for the details of these specifications.

4.8 Traffic interception

The traffic interception functions of a DVB-RCS2 compliant terminal shall follow the requirements indicated in ETSI TS 101 545-3 [3]. These specifications are optional and are not required for any profile.

4.9 Terminal installation functions

The terminal installation functions of a DVB-RCS2 compliant terminal shall follow the requirements indicated in ETSI TS 101 545-3 [3]. The potential waveforms to be used for the installation procedure are described in ETSI EN 301 545-2 [2]. The motor control commands shall follow DiSEqCTM [9] specification. Implementation of these control commands are optional as indicated in table 2 and are not required for any profile.

4.10 Terminal future configurations [informational]

Terminals capabilities defined in ETSI EN 301 545-2 [2] and ETSI TS 101 545-3 [3] cover essential use of the DVB-RCS2 systems. This informational clause provides some insight of future usages of the system which are foreseen in the scope of improved link efficiency or specific applications support and will be defined in new versions of the current set of specifications.

Table 1: Terminal future configurations options

Terminal feature	Comment
PHYSICAL LAYER	
SC-FDMA support on the return link	Improvement of the return link efficiency
Direct Sequence spread spectrum on the forward link	Provides improved downlink reception for small aperture terminals
MAC LAYER	
Network LAYER	
GSM/ WiMax backhauling	Requires further investigation to assess which optimizations are required
IP Gateway implementation	To be further defined
Management LAYER	

4.11 Terminal capabilities and profiles

Systems implementing DVB-RCS2 standard are not mandated to implement all features defined in the lower layers and higher layer satellite specifications documents. In order to better match DVB-RCS2 systems with their potential uses, a set of terminal profiles and features is defined in this clause.

Terminal optional features are defined as a set of capabilities that a terminal can implement or not depending on its design. Implementation of these features depends on the manufacturer decision and represents a competitive differentiation with respect to other designs. Normative features shall be implemented by all DVB-RCS2 terminals.

The fact that these features are implemented or not does not prevent the terminal to be interoperable with hubs as the hub should be aware of the implementation of these features via signalling.

In the particular case of mobile DVB-RCS2 terminals, some capabilities may be implemented to improve their capacity or their suitability when used in a mobile environment. Actually, no specific feature is mandated to support mobility as DVB-RCS2 terminals implementing no option can be mobile. Anyway, some features like hand-over management or spread spectrum support will improve significantly the exploitation of terminals in a mobile system by allowing smooth transitions between coverages or small aperture terminals.

This does not create a specific terminal profile (see table 3) as any terminal can be mobile and no specific feature is linked to mobility either. Eventually, mobility implementation for a DVB-RCS2 terminal is a feature that is tied to its supporting platform and antenna system which is not covered by the scope of the present document.

The original Consumer profile of V1.2.1 of the present document [i.2] has been split in:

- Consumer Linear
- Consumer CPM

The original SCADA profile of V1.2.1 of the present document [i.2] has been split in:

- SCADA Linear
- SCADA CPM

After V1.2.1 of the present document [i.2], support for DVB-S2X in the forward link is added.

Table 2: Terminal features description

Terminal feature	Mandatory/ Optional	Comment
PHYSICAL LAYER		
QPSK/8PSK support on the return link	M	Optional for RCST profiles Consumer CPM and SCADA CPM
CPM support on the return link	M	Optional for RCST profiles Consumer Linear and SCADA Linear
Reference waveforms	M	Mandatory for those that are not opted out in the 2 rows above

Terminal feature	Mandatory/ Optional	Comment
Custom waveforms	O	
Continuous Carrier mode operation	O	
BPSK transmission on the return link	O	
Direct Sequence spread spectrum on the return link	O	
Waveform bound permanently to timeslot	M	Definition via tables
Waveform allocated to timeslots at the time of assignment	M	Dynamic allocation via burst assignment
EIRP power control	M	For RCST not using MUC with CPM
Constant Power Density control	O	
Forward link DVB-S2 CCM, S2 ACM	M	
Forward link DVB-S2X ACM	O	DVB-S2X support was added in ETSI EN 301 545-2 [2] (V1.3.1).
Forward Link Single Continuous Generic Stream	M	
Forward link Single TS Packet Stream	O	For migration support
Forward link Multiple Streams (TS or GS)	O	
GSE in BBframe CRC32	M	
NCRv2 support in DVB-S2X	O	
MAC LAYER		
DAMA for traffic (supporting all capacity categories)	M	
Unsolicited DA for traffic	M	
Slotted Aloha logon	M	
Random Access combined with DAMA	O	
Random access with replicas	O	Constant of variable rate replication ratio
In-band signalling in traffic timeslots	M	
Signalling in DA signalling timeslots	M	
Protection for non line-of-sight interruptions on the forward link	O	Either Reed-Solomon or Raptor codes
NETWORK LAYER		
DHCP on LAN interface	M	For IPv4 and IPv6 as specified in ETSI TS 101 545-3 [3]
IPv4 and IPv6 support on traffic interface	M	
Static multicast support	M	
Dynamic multicast support	O	
Static IP routing support	M	
DiffServ QoS support	M	
MPLS support	O	
CONTROL FUNCTIONS		
Motor control support	O	Via DiSEqC™ 2.x support [9]
MANAGEMENT PLANE		
IPV4 support on management interface	M	
SDDP support	M	Specified in ETSI TS 101 545-3 [3]
Support of a RCS2 compatible MIB	M	A RCS2 compatible MIB is specified in ETSI TS 101 545-3 [3] (SatLabs MIB), will be further inserted in an updated version of IETF RFC 5728 [10]
PEP negotiation protocol support	M	Based on the signalling by the terminal which includes the case of not supporting PEP
XML file based configuration support	O	Find spec in ETSI TS 101 545-3 [3]
SNMP V2c	M	Specified in IETF RFC 1901 [7] and IETF RFC 1908 [8]
SNMP MIB II	M	Specified in IETF RFC 1213 [6]
SNMP and CLI remote control via layer 2	O	Based on layer 2 tunnelling. Refer to it in the LL specification
Lower Layer Signalling RCST remote control	M	
Authenticated logon	O	
Lower Layer IPv4 M&C address assign	M	
IPDR support	O	
Syslog support	O	
HTTP management interface support	M	
M: Mandatory capability required for DVB-RCS2 compatibility.		
O: Optional capability not required for DVB-RCS2 compatibility.		

In addition to the terminals features, a set of profiles is defined. Capabilities used as keys for profiling allow system designers to identify a set of minimum specifications for a terminal that declares its compliance to a given profile. A terminal can comply with several profiles and implement features or have performances above those defined in table 3. The requirements in this clause should be understood as minimum capabilities for a terminal to be declared as compliant to a usage profile.

Table 3: Terminal profiles description

	Consumer Linear & Consumer CPM	Multi-dwelling	Corporate	SCADA Linear & SCADA CPM	Backhaul	Institutional
PHYSICAL LAYER						
16 QAM return link modulation	O	O	M	O	M	M
32APSK Forward Link modulation	O	O	O	O	M	M
Essential waveform flexibility	O	O	M	O	M	M
Fast carrier switching	O	O	M	O	M	M
Lowest carrier switching class	1	1	2	1	2	2
MAC LAYER						
Minimum number of supported traffic SVN	1	4	4	1	4	4
Minimum number of layer 2 traffic classes (request classes and allocation channels)	3	3	7	3	3	7
Slotted Aloha traffic	O	O	O	M	O	O
TRANSEC hooks support	O	O	O	O	O	M
NETWORK LAYER						
Minimum number of simultaneous traffic multicast streams reception	16	64	64	16	16	64
Dynamic IP routing via OSPF support	O	M	M	O	M	M
Firewall capability	O	O	M	M	O	M
Multicast forwarding on the return link	O	O	O	O	O	M
MANAGEMENT LAYER						
SNMP v3 support (*)	O	M	M	O	M	M
Multi SVNO support	O	M	O	O	O	O
M: Mandatory capability required for this profile. O: Optional capability not required for this profile. (*) SNMP V2c is required as a minimum for all terminals profiles while SNMP V3 should be normative unless specified optional.						

4.12 System versioning

4.12.0 Introduction

The scope of version 2 designated as the DVB-RCS2 standard is extended significantly compared to that of version 1 as defined in ETSI EN 301 790 [1] and designated as DVB-RCS. In particular, DVB-RCS2 contains mandatory provisions for the management and control planes. Furthermore, in order to enhance efficiency, this version has introduced a significant number of non-backwards-compatible changes to certain mandatory provisions that are covered in both versions. This applies, inter alia, to the encapsulation, modulation and coding of the return link transmissions, as well as to the carriage of signalling in the forward link.

These changes have been introduced in a manner that facilitates a smooth migration from Version 1 to Version 2, with minimal operational impact. It is envisaged that such a migration may take place over an extended period of time. In particular, already-deployed RCST's operating according to Version 1 may not be software-upgradeable to Version 2, so a system operator may choose to operate according to Version 2 only on newly-deployed and replaced terminals. Accordingly, Version 1 may only be phased out as existing terminals reach the end of their operational life. It is therefore very important that the two versions can co-exist within a system and share the resources in an efficient manner.

Clause 4.12.1 describes the envisaged scenarios and associated normative provisions for forward links; clause 4.12.2 presents the corresponding provisions for return and mesh links. Some considerations for Management and Control Planes, Synchronization and Logon are presented in clauses 4.12.3 and 4.12.4.

4.12.1 Forward Link

Migration scenarios for the forward link depend on the starting point. The forward link in DVB-RCS Version 2 is intended to use the Generic Stream Encapsulation protocol exclusively, including for transport of signalling. In DVB-RCS (ETSI EN 301 790 [1]) specification, one or more Transport Streams are used to carry traffic and signalling.

The multi-input-stream capabilities of DVB-S2(X) can be exploited to allow sharing of a physical forward link carrier among RCST populations operating according to both versions. This greatly facilitates migration, in particular for systems employing a forward link that occupies a complete transponder. Avoiding multi-carrier operation eliminates the need to back off the transponder during the migration.

Carrier sharing is not possible if the original system uses DVB-S or include RCST's that support only the minimum functionality mandated for DVB-S2 (CCM with single input transport stream).

As a special provision to facilitate migration, Version 2 RCST's may be able to extract forward link traffic and signalling from a Transport Stream. This optional feature provides tools that facilitate the migration process. This feature ameliorates restrictions dictated by fundamental differences between forward link carriers, in particular between DVB-S and DVB-S2(X). By using this optional feature, it is possible to design hybrid migration scenarios for the overall system, in which the forward and return links are migrated separately. For example, a DVB-RCS forward link can be used to transport traffic and signalling to both DVB-RCS and DVB-RCS2 capable RCST's. The latter may in turn use a DVB-RCS2 return link.

Table 4 summarizes the main issues associated with forward link migration from different starting points, in order of decreasing system impact. These are examples only; it is expected that details will be system-specific. It is further noted that there are no known DVB-RCS implementations that make use of Generic Streams for carrying traffic. Migration scenarios starting from Generic Streams have therefore not been considered. Some additional considerations are presented following table 4.

Table 4: Forward link migration scenarios

Migrating From	Main Considerations
DVB-S	The carrier cannot be strictly Version-2 compliant, but can transport DVB-RCS2 information in a hybrid migration scenario.
DVB-S2 CCM with MPE (single-stream capable receivers)	The carrier cannot be strictly DVB-RCS2 compliant, but can transport DVB-RCS2 information in a hybrid migration scenario.
DVB-S2 CCM with MPE (multi-stream capable receivers)	During the migration, at least one TS is retained to carry traffic for DVB-RCS terminals. This TS will also carry signalling. Although not strictly required, for best efficiency one or more GSs should carry the traffic for RCSTs.
DVB-S2 ACM with MPE	During the migration, at least one TS is retained to carry traffic for DVB-RCS terminals. This TS will also carry signalling. NCR packets can be shared by all RCS and RCS2 terminals. Although not strictly required, for best efficiency one or more GSs should carry the traffic for RCSTs.

When migrating from a DVB-S forward link, there is no possibility of operating it strictly according to DVB-RCS2. However, if a hybrid migration arrangement is acceptable, the DVB-S carrier can be used to transport traffic and signalling DVB-RCS2 terminals, as described above. To support DVB-RCS2 terminals without the migration option, it is necessary to run the DVB-RCS2 component through a separate forward link. The relative carrier rates can be adjusted over time to match the traffic demands in the two components, as this evolves from DVB-RCS to DVB-RCS2. If the original system operates in a quasi-linear, shared transponder, this will have little impact on the system efficiency - in fact, the higher efficiency of the DVB-S2(X)-based DVB-RCS2 system will likely more than compensate for the added overhead incurred due to duplication of certain elements of signalling, etc. If the original system uses a full transponder operated near saturation, it will be necessary either to provide additional capacity for the new carrier, or to back off the transponder to allow two-carrier operation. In the latter case, some capacity loss in the migration period is probably inevitable.

If the terminal in the original system allows it, this capacity loss can be further mitigated by carrying out the migration in two steps: by first switching to DVB-S2(X) operation in DVB-RCS, and subsequently introducing DVB-RCS2 operation on the shared carrier as described below.

A similar situation occurs if the original system uses DVB-S2 but includes DVB-RCS terminals that implement only the bare minimum required by the DVB-S2 standard (CCM with single transport stream). In this case, the multi-stream capabilities of DVB-S2(X) cannot be exploited, so it is again necessary either to use separate forward link carriers or to transport DVB-RCS2 traffic and signalling on the DVB-RCS carrier in a hybrid migration arrangement.

Apart from this case, the migration path from a DVB-S2 based DVB-RCS system depends on how the original system is operated; in particular on whether the original system is CCM or ACM. This distinction arises from the fact that DVB-RCS carries the NCR synchronization information in different ways, depending on the mode. The method used in DVB-RCS2 is analogous to that used in DVB-RCS with ACM, while that used with CCM in DVB-RCS is substantially different. When migrating from a DVB-RCS CCM system, it may therefore be necessary to carry two separate sets of NCR packets: One transmitted according to the CCM method, one according to the ACM/DVB-RCS2 method. This depends on whether the backwards compatibility of the DVB-RCS2 terminals extends to supporting the CCM NCR method.

One or more Transport Streams have to be retained during the migration to carry traffic to DVB-RCS terminals as well as to carry some or all signalling. For best efficiency, one or more GSs should be added to the carrier to handle traffic to DVB-RCS2 terminals.

In all DVB-S2 migration scenarios, input streams are separated by ISI value and no explicit re-configuration is required at the DVB-S2 level in order to apportion capacity among the two terminal populations.

4.12.2 Return link

While the basic MF-TDMA nature of the return link has been retained from DVB-RCS to DVB-RCS2, incompatible changes have been introduced to the encapsulation (variable-payload RLE vs. fixed-payload ATM/MPEG), FEC coding (16-state vs. 8-state turbo code), burst formatting (distributed pilots vs. preamble-only), modulation (extension to 8PSK and 16QAM) and dynamic operation (rapid changes to the time slot parameters). It is envisaged that these changes will necessitate corresponding changes to the resource management functions. As a result of this, the recommended resource sharing method in the return link during migration from DVB-RCS to DVB-RCS2 is to exploit the multi-carrier nature of the transmission scheme, configuring separate sets of carriers with appropriate characteristics and capacity for the two terminals populations. This configuration will evolve over time, as the usage of DVB-RCS decreases and that of DVB-RCS2 increases. In all but the smallest systems, this will provide a relatively fine granularity for the capacity sharing. The partitioning will however be quasi-static, so some loss of capacity can be encountered. This loss is however at least partly compensated by the better power/bandwidth efficiency of Version 2, and can be further mitigated by the special logon provisions described below.

It is conceivable that individual carriers can be shared between DVB-RCS and DVB-RCS2, by a judicious design of the frame formats that create non-overlapping resources for the two elements (e.g. letting the first half of each superframe be DVB-RCS and the second half DVB-RCS2). This may be of interest particularly for very small systems. There are no special normative provisions to support this type of operation; implementation is left to individual vendors and system operators.

4.12.3 Management and Control Planes

Management and control plane functions above the MAC layer are outside the scope of DVB-RCS, with systems relying largely on vendor-specific provisions. By definition, there is therefore no interoperable migration path to DVB-RCS2 for these aspects.

4.12.4 RCST Synchronization and Logon

Both versions of the standard have defined ways of locating the forward link carrier and the (TS or GS) stream carrying the signalling; based on the population_id and other fundamental parameters configured in each terminal. As a minimum, any terminal attempting to enter the system will therefore be able to locate the appropriate resources unambiguously and will therefore also be able to attempt logon in the appropriate partition of the return link resource.

Furthermore, as a migration aid, DVB-RCS2 includes an optional, backwards-compatible variant of the logon (CSC) burst from DVB-RCS. This variant allows the terminals to indicate its DVB-RCS2 capabilities as well as whether it can operate fully in accordance with DVB-RCS. This feature allows the NCC to make the decision about the version to be used for any session at logon time, rather than using a pre-determined configuration. This can be used for example for load balancing, hence minimizing the impact of the resource partitioning between DVB-RCS and DVB-RCS2.

4.13 Security aspects

4.13.0 Introduction

This clause addresses system security issues - concerned with protection of the network itself - as well as lawful interception of traffic.

System security comprises Confidentiality, Integrity, Availability and Non-Repudiation. Each of these attributes can be associated with the U-Plane, C-Plane and M-Plane; the corresponding functional security needs are summarized in table 5.

Table 5: High-level security requirements

	Confidentiality	Integrity	Availability	Non-repudiation
U-plane	Protection of unencrypted data and header information	<i>Use of standard techniques (e.g. CRC, sequence numbers)</i>		Provided by IPsec or HAIPE
C-plane	<i>Protection of User Traffic activity patterns and capacity requests</i>	<i>Use of standard techniques (e.g. CRC, sequence numbers)</i>	Protection against Denial of Service attack	<i>User, Hub and RCST authentication</i>
M-plane	<i>Protection of signalling; protection from Terminal Location Analysis</i>	<i>Use of standard techniques (e.g. CRC, sequence numbers)</i>	Protection against Denial of Service attack	<i>User, Hub and RCST authentication</i>

The security aspects addressed in DVB-RCS2 are represented by **highlighting** in table 5. Correspondingly, for the purposes of the standard, security has been defined to include:

- Control, management and data confidentiality and integrity:
 - **Risk of channel activity patterns tracking:** disguise transmission energy in order to conceal channel activity fluctuations.
 - **Risk of control channel information monitoring:** disguise traffic volumes, secure traffic source and destination.
 - **Risk of user data eavesdropping:** disguise user information.
- Network access and connection establishment:
 - **Risk of hub and remote units faking:** ensure that remote terminals connected to the network are authorized users.
 - **Intrusion risk:** mitigate the intrusion risk / protect against Denial-of-Services (DoS) and Replay attacks.

U-Plane security may be provided end-to-end using mechanisms outside the scope of the standard, e.g. IPsec (including HAIPE, High Assurance Internet Protocol Encryptor) or Transport Layer Security (TLS).

Protocols implemented within an RCST and operating at the network-layer or above (e.g. IP-level functions, configuration, and management) can also present security vulnerabilities. As for the user plane, these can be secured using standards-based methods such as TCP secure, IPsec, and protocol-specific security extensions. Remedies for these issues are beyond the scope of standardization.

There are known interactions with end-to-end security mechanisms and RCST protocol acceleration mechanisms such as intercepting proxies. These mechanisms can partially deny opportunities for split-TCP, application-specific protocol acceleration, compression, cross-layer QoS optimization, etc., since these techniques require visibility of protocol headers (and in some cases the ability to modify them). This conflicts with the security goals. Remedies for these issues are system specific and beyond the scope of the present document.

4.13.1 Transmission Security (TRANSEC)

The countermeasure techniques commonly used for mitigating security risks in the management and control planes are known as TRANSEC. The techniques foreseen in the standard include link layer encryption including its associated key management, authentication and traffic activity concealment/obfuscation. The normative document provides features for transport of the information associated with these countermeasures, including for example encryption key exchange messages, initialization vectors and authentication handshaking. Given that specific requirements and preferred techniques vary substantially between users, details of the techniques and associated signalling are outside the scope of the normative provisions. A number of implementations are described in the guidelines document.

TRANSEC encryption can be applied in the link layer to both Forward Link (FL) and Return Link (RL) of a DVB-RCS2 network, to all data packets (payloads and headers) and to all signalling, with a small number of exceptions dictated by physical transport considerations. In mesh regenerative systems some headers may be sent as clear text to allow on-board switching / routing. Link layer encryption is foreseen to be based on approved algorithms, used in approved modes of operations. For military and governmental applications the encryption algorithms and the operation modes will normally be military approved.

On the forward link, the traffic activity can be concealed/obfuscated by transmitting dummy or "chaff" packets in broadcast mode. On the return link, the traffic activity can be concealed / obfuscated by transmitting dummy bursts. The policies for slot allocation for dummy bursts are system specific.

In order to ensure that transport of TRANSEC-specific information can take place in an interoperable manner, the following mandatory protocol types are defined for GSE in the forward link and RLE in return/mesh links:

- **TRANSEC_Chaff:** This mandatory protocol type indicates that the packet contains meaningless "chaff" or "dummy" data. The contents of such packets shall be discarded by the receiver.
- **TRANSEC_Certificate:** This mandatory protocol type indicates that the packet contains certificate exchange information for control of a TRANSEC function. The packet contents are implementation-specific. Such packets can be discarded by receivers not implementing TRANSEC.

The corresponding protocol type values are assigned by the IETF.

4.13.2 Lawful Interception

A DVB-RCS2 Network may need to consider the requirements for lawful interception of user traffic. These requirements vary depending on location and local legislation.

For star networks, lawful interception functionality may be provided at the hub.

In mesh networks, the opportunities for lawful interception are system dependent. OBP-based mesh networks typically assemble all transmissions into a single TDM per beam, so interception can be achieved by the same means as for star networks, by employing a single receiving station in each beam. This function will normally be available at the NCC in any case.

Some transparent mesh networks also have a reception function at the hub, where all traffic can be monitored. Although usually intended for extraction of signalling, this function can also be used for lawful interception.

In those transparent mesh networks where no central traffic monitoring is available as part of the normal system operation, it may be necessary to install dedicated monitoring facilities in each beam.

A number of existing techniques may be used for interception of traffic in IP networks, including DVB-ISS networks. These include for example IPFIX (Internet Protocol Flow Information Export) (IETF RFC 3917 [4]) and PSAMP (Packet Sampling) (IETF RFC 5474 [5]). The former is an IETF standard for common export of Internet Protocol flow information from routers, probes, and other devices. It is used by mediation systems, accounting/billing systems, and network management systems to facilitate services such as measurement, accounting, and billing. The PSAMP protocol allows packets to be selected from a stream according to a set of standardised selectors, to form a stream of reports on the selected packets, and to export the reports to a collector using the IPFIX framework. The details of these techniques, and the manner in which they are applied, are outside the scope of the present document.

4.14 Evaluation and certification

This clause is provisioned for future versions of the present document may refer to evaluation and certification methods for RCSTs terminals and systems.

History

Document history		
V1.1.1	May 2012	Publication
V1.2.1	April 2014	Publication
V1.3.1	July 2020	Publication