Press Release

ZDF relies on Rohde & Schwarz and Fraunhofer HHI for the transition to DVB-T2

After one of the biggest equipment upgrades in the history of broadcasting in Germany, regular operation of DVB-T2 HD started on schedule this year. ZDF, the largest public broadcaster in Germany, selected the R&S AVHE100 encoding and multiplexing solution from Rohde & Schwarz with HEVC technology from the Fraunhofer HHI for its headend implementation. The transition to DVB-T2, including switching off DVB-T, was accomplished without a single hitch in just one night.

Munich, July 5, 2017 — The Rohde & Schwarz system handles the central signal processing as well as encoding and multiplexing for the new DVB-T2 network. It uses the new HEVC codec to deliver the best video quality at the lowest possible data rate. This system solution provides realtime HEVC encoding of resolutions up to 4K/UHD at up to 60 frames per second. The integrated HEVC encoder was developed by the Fraunhofer Heinrich Hertz Institute HHI, which also played a major role in the development of the HEVC standard.

The key advantage for this successful application is that, thanks to the integrated Fraunhofer HHI HEVC coder, the R&S AVHE100 offers the best picture quality on the market for HEVC coded content. ZDF has confirmed this in numerous quality and stability tests against established competitors. Another advantage is the statistical multiplexing that makes optimal use of the available bandwidth to provide viewers with outstanding picture quality. ZDF was impressed with the system design, which includes a uniform user interface that is straightforward and easy-to-use, yet extremely powerful. Rohde & Schwarz garnered another point in its favor with the special Dolby audio implementation that exactly meets ZDF requirements.

The R&S AVHE100 is a fully software-based encoding and multiplexing solution that runs on standard IT components. It is an exceedingly flexible solution that can be individually tailored to each customer. Extensions and improvements to the coding and transmission standard are easily incorporated and simple to upgrade on existing systems. The R&S AVHE100 also offers an extremely sophisticated redundancy concept. Its many reliability features ensure especially high failsafety for 24/7 operation.

Press contacts:

Europe (headquarters): Patrizia Muehlbauer, Phone: +49 89 4129 0, E-mail: press@rohde-schwarz.com

North America: Pam Sanders, Phone: +1 410 910 7908, E-mail: pam.sanders@rsa.rohde-schwarz.com

Asia Pacific: Wen Shi Tong, Phone: +65 6 307-0029, E-mail: press.apac@rohde-schwarz.com

Contacts for readers:

Customer Support Europe, Africa, Middle East: +49 89 4129 12345
customersupport@rohde-schwarz.com

Customer Support North America: +1 888 TEST RSA (+1 888 837 87 72)
customer.support@rsa.rohde-schwarz.com

Customer Support Latin America: +1 410 910 79 88
customersupport.la@rohde-schwarz.com

Customer Support Asia Pacific: +65 65 13 04 88
customersupport.asia@rohde-schwarz.com

Customer Support China: +86 800 810 8228 or +86 400 650 5896
customersupport.china@rohde-schwarz.com

Rohde & Schwarz

The Rohde & Schwarz electronics group offers innovative solutions in all fields of wireless communications as well as in IT security. Founded more than 80 years ago, the independent company has an extensive sales and service network with subsidiaries and representatives in more than 70 countries. On June 30, 2016, Rohde & Schwarz had approximately 10,000 employees. The group achieved a net revenue of approximately EUR 1.92 billion in the 2015/2016 fiscal year (July to June). The company is headquartered in Munich, Germany, and also has strong regional hubs in Asia and the USA.

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All press releases, including photos for downloading, are available on the Internet at http://www.press.rohde-schwarz.com.

Fraunhofer HHI

Innovations for the digital society of the future are the focus of research and development work at the Fraunhofer Heinrich Hertz Institute HHI. In this area, Fraunhofer HHI is a world leader in development for mobile and optical communications networks and systems as well as processing and coding of video signals. Together with international partners from research and industry, Fraunhofer HHI works in the whole spectrum of digital infrastructure – from fundamental research to the development of prototypes and solutions. www.hhi.fraunhofer.de

Press contact:

Anne Rommel, Phone: +49 30 31002 353, E-mail: anne.rommel@hhi.fraunhofer.de