



## **Dublin - March 2023**

### **2rn HbbTV testing**

2rn, (the transmission authority for the Republic of Ireland) are continuing test transmissions of HbbTV content on the Saorview platform.

These test transmissions are broadcast to the NorDig standard - HbbTV 1.5 specification.

The primary function of these tests are to ensure that the Saorview platform is ready to accommodate future development in this area and to ensure that Irish broadcasters wishing to take advantage of newer technologies (in order to bring Irish viewers an improved and richer interactive experience) are accommodated.

The team at 2rn have worked closely with our partners Barrowa of Denmark in producing HbbTV content and signalling compatible with Saorview approved reception equipment designed to decode HbbTV content.

2rn also needed to ensure that the coexistence of HbbTV and MHEG in the service broadcast did not affect the legacy population of Saorview approved receivers; to that aim an extensive test period was undertaken within the 2rn receiver test farm of iDTV and Set Top Box to ensure that MHEG only devices would continue to run unaffected by the introduction of HbbTV signalling & content to the platform. These farm tests were concluded some time ago and HbbTV functionality rolled out as graphic screen holders with dynamic EPG synopsis updates to Saorview Radio Services.

2rn are now currently testing dual stack (MHEG/HbbTV) functionality via the hidden 2rn test channel on Saorview LCN 51 - via a suitably enabled HbbTV device, a HbbTV still or slate will load in preference to a MHEG still (HbbTV ident, lower RH corner), a failure to load HbbTV on LCN 51 may be cross referenced with LCN 50 (where only a HbbTV still is transmitted), failure to load content on LCN 50 indicates that the receiving device HbbTV settings are not enabled via privacy settings menu on the device.

Further additional testing over the coming months will include HbbTV Red Button interactivity (identical in operation to the previously deployed MHEG Red Button), this functionality enables broadcasters to transmit an additional hidden channel in the event of an event clash and a HbbTV Green Button bookable promo function for Personal Video Recorder (PVR) "Saorview +" devices.

Within NorDig we are currently working to produce suitable test streams to ensure that manufacturers have a benchmark test against which to work; these current on air test however are indicative of that benchmark.

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