



The NorDig Charter, as revised per March 2022

1. Introduction

Broadcasting of television is constantly evolving, and new technology and new services are introduced in a rapid pace. This affects the whole chain from production to distribution and to consumer electronics in homes. In this development there is also a merge between traditional broadcasting technology and IT technology. In view of this, it is of the highest importance that there is discussion and exchange of ideas within the business community and a respected and competent forum for discussing requirements and making recommendations.

NorDig is an organization based on, and formed by, the different companies in the broadcasting industry. It was formed in 1997 by leading Nordic actors in the television broadcasting and distribution sectors for the purpose to harmonize the new digital transmissions and the associated consumer equipment, in order to secure a common minimum performance across the various platforms (based on cable, satellite or terrestrial networks) and secure that the functionality required by the various NorDig broadcasters and operators could be achieved.

It was realized that the NorDig actors were relatively small and operated in national markets that were small compared to the larger European national markets. To influence the technical and associated commercial developments it was necessary to harmonize the actors' requirements and offer the receiver industry a market that could be served efficiently.

At that time, it was hoped that all broadcast equipment could be distributed on a horizontal market; common NorDig requirements should ensure a common core performance for all platforms; only the front ends needed adaptation to the various types of platforms.

These goals still stand, with some modifications. All platforms use digital transmissions and current NorDig platforms share a large common functionality. The NorDig specifications are enhanced for delivery of broadcast signals over IP-based broadband networks. But it has – so far- not been possible to agree on common systems for access control, and the use of common CA-interfaces was suspended due to insufficient security of the available solutions at that time. Use of interactive services did not materialize as expected and parts of the interfaces to IP-based networks had to be suspended as the actual market development took different directions.

The result is that current NorDig platforms share a large common functionality but may in addition have specific interfaces for access control systems and some additional network specific functions.

With the advent of new solutions for CA-interfaces and new ways to deliver interactive services, including use of hybrid platforms, there will be new opportunities and challenges to achieving the goals of an open market for consumer equipment that satisfy the NorDig minimum requirements.

In order to obtain such NorDig compliant consumer equipment it is realized that the NorDig specifications need to be maintained and regularly updated for both the transmissions and the corresponding consumer premises equipment. In addition, there will be a need for common test specifications in order to secure interoperability of NorDig compliant transmissions and the relevant consumer premises equipment.

2. Purpose and Objectives

NorDig's main purpose is to ensure that the broadcast value chain is maintained and developed as deemed required, allowing the NorDig members to maintain and develop their services on modern and efficient platforms, and benefiting the consumers by a rich offer of services on commonly available and efficient consumer equipment.



The NorDig work shall aim for the benefit of the consumer; by specifying efficient consumer equipment with functions as required for existing and new services, in line with developments in the members' markets and in the wider European and other advanced markets.

The objectives of the NorDig include:

- Provide a forum for exchange of information, harmonization of actions regarding common commercial and regulatory issues, as well as harmonization of platform and equipment requirements.
- Harmonized specifications for distribution and reception of digital TV and associated services: The specifications shall represent minimum requirements as needed for being supported by the NorDig members. The specifications shall as far as practical be based on open European and global standards and aim at keeping the NorDig platforms in line with developments in other advanced markets.
- NorDig's specifications shall be maintained and updated regularly to ensure that the recommended specifications are up to date and reflect the members' need for modern and efficient distribution platforms, in line with the developments in the members' own markets and in other advanced markets.
- Ensure that the recommended specifications and solutions add value to the whole industry i.e., cost reduction, economy of scale and consumer benefits. The overall intention is to make sure that the markets served by NorDig members are in front and aligned with the main developments in advanced markets.
- Ensure that the standardization work is based on the real needs of the members and their intended use of future media services.

All work and decisions within NorDig are primary based on consensus between the members. If consensus can't be reach and there is a request for voting from any member of ExCom, a decision can be taken if a quality majority (2/3) of present ExCom members vote in favor. However, the voting shall take place on the following ExCom meeting, listed as a separate item on the agenda.

3. Organization

NorDig is a Swedish none profit association.

NorDig is organized with an Executive Committee (ExCom), a technical committee (NorDig T) and a Commercial ad-hoc group reporting to the ExCom.

The Executive Committee is the highest decision body within NorDig. Every member organization has the right to one seat in this committee. ExCom has 2 ordinary meetings every year. In addition, extraordinary meetings of ExCom may be held if necessary. At the first meeting every year a chairman for ExCom is elected and the membership fee for the forthcoming year is decided.

ExCom shall ensure that the commercial requirements of the NorDig members are established and approved, and that the technical specifications issued by NorDig are approved and supported by NorDig's members. ExCom may in addition investigate non-technical and commercial issues that the members find important within the main purpose of the NorDig work.

The NorDig Technology Committee (NorDig T) shall establish and maintain technical specifications that meet the commercial requirements set by ExCom. The specifications shall cover the transmission (NorDig Rules Of Operations), the reception (NorDig Unified Requirements for IRDs) and test specification covering the validation of the receiver equipment (NorDig Unified Test Plan). NorDig T has a set of sub-groups focused on particular working areas. The members of the NorDig T are technical experts from the NorDig members. In addition, there may be participation from experts representing industry observers and others. The chairman of NorDig T is appointed by ExCom and ExCom shall also



approve any specification work on new areas or functions within the NorDig specifications.

The NorDig Commercial ad-hoc group is tasked to investigate non-technical issues, including issues relating to new functions and services. Mandate and participation in the group are decided as required, depending on the circumstances. The ad-hoc group is led by one dedicated member from ExCom.

4. Membership

Applying for membership in NorDig is open to any company or similar organization, based in the Nordic area or Ireland, and is active in production, broadcasting or distribution of Television content and who is supporting NorDig's goals. Companies who produce or sell consumer electronics for receiving television can become direct members or choose to be represented by **NACEA**, *Nordic Alliance of Consumer Electronics Associations*, in NorDig ExCom.

Organizations based outside the Nordic area or Ireland can become **Associated member** to NorDig. This membership does not include a seat in the NorDig ExCom. Associated members are welcome to participate in ExCom meetings but does not have the right to vote. Participation in all other groups within NorDig T are on equal terms. The yearly fee for an Associated membership is reduced by 50% of the full membership fee.

Membership can be terminated, without refund of membership fee, by the member by giving notice in writing to ExCom before end of calendar year. Membership can be terminated by ExCom if a member has not paid the membership fee or is no longer supporting the NorDig's objectives.

5. Termination of NorDig.

The NorDig organization can be terminated by decision in ExCom. This decision must be made on two succeeding meetings, including pre-announcement on the agenda, and with a quality majority (2/3) of present members voting for such an action. Any remaining funds or debts within NorDig will be divided equally among the ordinary members. The termination will be announced on the website (*nordig.org*) for at least one year and after that the site will be closed down. Any original documentation will be available on request to members for a period of one year.