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# The twenties

The world discovers a new method of immediate and far-reaching communication: the radio.

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1924

## FIRST STEPS

Enthralled by radio broadcasting, François and Marcel Anen install a radiotelephone transmitter in the attic of their house, 28, Rue Beaumont in Luxembourg, in autumn 1923 and start their first experiments.

APRIL 1924

## FROM AMATEUR RADIO TO BROADCASTING

In April 1924, the Anen brothers take the step from amateur radio to broadcasting, sending out a regular programme from Luxembourg, playing mainly music records.

JULY 1925

## BECOMING PROFESSIONAL

The Anen brothers create the Association Radio Luxembourg to run the station.

1926

## ENTERTAINING

The station broadcasts records, sports results on Saturdays, and live concerts performed by an orchestra from their attic studio, as well as from outside. The first presenters speak mainly Luxembourgish, but also German, French and English. The transmitter's power is boosted to 150W.

In France, the Bokanowski decree aims to strengthen the state monopoly in broadcasting. It authorises the existing private commercial radio stations only until 1 January 1933 – by this date they will come under the guardianship of the state. Owners of such radio stations, like Radio Paris and Radio Toulouse, start looking for new opportunities outside France. Some turn towards Luxembourg.

1927

## A NEW ANTENNA

The Association Radio Luxembourg is granted a subsidy by the Luxembourgish state to install a new antenna.

1928

## INCREASING POWER

The transmitter's power is boosted to 250W.

The same year, François Anen accepts the outgoing 3kW transmitter from Radio Toulouse to use in Luxembourg.

A French–Luxembourgish study syndicate is created, with the aim of installing a powerful radio station in Luxembourg. Named Blue Star Radio, it is represented by the Luxembourgish sports journalist, Alphonse Steinès, and has the financial support of the Banque française et hollando-américaine.

1929

## TWO MORE COMPANIES

The same aim is pursued by two more companies created in 1929:

On 27 May, the Société Luxembourgeoise d'Études Radiophoniques (SLER), led by the French Compagnie des Compteurs, is officialised.

29 July, sees the officialisation of the Compagnie Nationale de Radiodiffusion Luxembourgeoise (CNRL), led by Jacques Trémoulet, Head of Radio Toulouse. The CNRL – in which the Anen station has been integrated, and which was given the frequency of 223m by the Prague Plan in January – starts building a transmitter site in Cessange (Kohlenberg) and begins broadcasting under the name Radio Luxembourg.

François Anen is involved in both companies.

19 DECEMBER 1929

## NEW LAW

The first Luxembourgish law regulating radio broadcasting is published on 19 December. The law states that any radio station has to be authorised by the head of the Postes et Télégraphes administration.

# The thirties

CLR (Compagnie Luxembourgeoise de Radiodiffusion) is born. The company becomes a European pioneer by broadcasting a unique programme in several languages using the same frequency.

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**JANUARY 1930**

## STOP OF BROADCAST

In January the CNRL is ordered by the Luxembourgish authorities to stop broadcasting Radio Luxembourg.

**29 SEPTEMBER 1930**

## EXCLUSIVE LICENCE

The SLER obtains the exclusive licence for radio broadcasting from the Luxembourg Government. A 25-year concession agreement is signed on 29 September.

**30 MAY 1931**

## FOUNDING THE CLR



The members of the SLER found the Compagnie Luxembourgeoise de Radiodiffusion (CLR). The main shareholders are CSF, Agence Havas (both already associated in Radio Paris), I&P, Banque de Paris et des Pays-Bas, Compagnie des Compteurs and the Banque Industrielle Belge.

The headquarters of the CLR are established at 53, Avenue Monterey. François Anen joins the technical service (studios) of the new company.

**7 OCTOBER 1931**

## UNDER CONSTRUCTION

The construction of the transmitter site in Junglinster begins.

**29 AUGUST 1932**

## VILLA LOUVIGNY

Part of the Villa Louvigny – built on a 17th century fort located in the heart of Luxembourg – is rented as headquarters for all radio activities except transmission.

**15 MARCH 1933**

## FIRST REGULAR LONG WAVE BROADCAST

After an experimental programme, Radio Luxembourg makes its first regular long wave broadcast on 15 March in French and German, from the Villa Louvigny's studios, using the most modern and powerful (150kW) transmitter in Europe situated in Junglinster.

**15 JULY 1933**

## AN ORCHESTRA...

The newly founded orchestra plays its first concert under the direction of Henri Pensis. This will become the famous Orchestre Symphonique de Radio Luxembourg.

**3 DECEMBER 1933**

## ENGLISH PROGRAMMES

English programmes start on 3 December, broadcasting simultaneously during a week from Radio Paris and Radio Luxembourg, and finally transferred permanently to Luxembourg, and finally transferred permanently to Luxembourg. The international and multilingual programme is a huge success in Germany, Great Britain, France and Belgium, and astonishes CLR's competitors.

**3 JULY 1934**

## LIVE FROM THE TOUR DE FRANCE

Radio Luxembourg broadcasts live from the Tour de France for the first time.

**1936**

## **ARRIVING IN PARIS**

A French administrative headquarter of Radio Luxembourg is set up, at 22 Rue Bayard in Paris.

**29 JUNE 1937**

## **VILLA LOUVIGNY**

Following the ongoing success of Radio Luxembourg, CLR buys the Villa Louvigny and extends the premises.

**MAY 1938**

## **THE LUXEMBOURG LISTENER**

From May 1938 to September 1939 a De Havilland Dragon airplane christened 'The Luxembourg Listener' (Olley Air Service) makes a twice weekly return trip from Croydon to Esch-sur-Alzette carrying taped programmes, records and passengers.

**2 SEPTEMBER 1939**

## **ON THE EVE OF WAR...**

The Luxembourg Government, concerned about maintaining Luxembourg's neutrality, asks CLR to stop broadcasting – a decision already considered by the company's management. Regular programmes cease on 2 September, and broadcasting is limited to official government communiques and music. Less than three weeks later, on 21 September, operations are closed down.

# The forties

War time. The Nazis use the installations of the radio station from 1940 to 1944, then the Allies take over. Radio Luxembourg begins broadcasting again in November 1945.

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**10 MAY 1940**

## **NAZI INVASION**

On the day of the Nazi invasion, Radio Luxembourg installations are among the first objectives of the Wehrmacht in the Grand Duchy. Four weeks later, German troops restart the station, using it for their communication until October 1940, when the transmitter is incorporated into the Reichs-Rundfunk-Gesellschaft and used for Nazi propaganda.

**10 SEPTEMBER 1944**

## **LIBERATION**

American troops liberate the country. After an agreement between the Luxembourgish Government in exile and the United States, the transmitter, which has been damaged by the German army, is made available to the Psychological Warfare Division (PWD) of SHAEF (Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Forces). The PWD was an Anglo-American organisation that used radio broadcasting to undermine German soldiers' morale.

**JULY 1945**

## **A BITTER RETURN**

The Office of War Information begins to use the station in July, handing over the installations to the CLR on 11 November. The return to the Villa Louvigny is a bitter disappointment for rehired staff, as most equipment has been destroyed and the Villa Louvigny plundered by the Nazis.

**12 NOVEMBER 1945**

## **“BONJOUR LE MONDE...”**

Radio Luxembourg begins broadcasting again on 12 November 1945, with the famous words: “Bonjour le Monde, ici Radio Luxembourg.”

**1947**

## **LES AMIS DE RADIO-LUXEMBOURG**

An association of Radio Luxembourg admirers in France – Les Amis de Radio-Luxembourg – is born.

# The fifties

The use of a medium wave transmitter contributes to the spectacular development of radio and the beginning of CLR's audiovisual adventure: CLR becomes CLT.

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**15 JANUARY 1951**

## **NEW MEDIUM WAVE TRANSMITTER**

CLR's new medium wave transmitter in Junglinster is inaugurated.

Radio Luxembourg transfers its English programme to medium wave 208. 'Two-O-Eight' becomes a new reference for young Britons. Part of the broadcasting on medium wave is also occupied by a programme in Dutch and Luxembourgish. The success of Radio Luxembourg grows day by day.

**1952**

## **A STUDIO IN LONDON**

A studio is installed at 38 Hertford Street in London.

**18 MAY 1953**



## **ALAS LEONI DEDIT**

The 'new' Villa Louvigny is inaugurated. The winged lion with the motto 'Alas Leoni dedit' ('It gave wings to the lion') decorates the front of the building.

**1 JULY 1954**

## **A NEW ERA OF BROADCASTING**

The management of CLR enters into a new era of broadcasting: television. On 1 July, CLR becomes CLT (Compagnie Luxembourgeoise de Télédiffusion) and begins the construction of a TV transmitter and studio in Dudelange.

**23 JANUARY 1955**

## **TÉLÉ LUXEMBOURG**

Télé Luxembourg – a TV channel in French – broadcasts its first experimental programme on 23 January from Dudelange within North-East France, Luxembourg and South Belgium.

**14 MAY 1955**

## **INAUGURATION AND REGULAR BROADCASTING**

Regular broadcasting begins on 14 May, day on which the installations are officially inaugurated in Dudelange.

**14 DECEMBER 1956**

## **A BETTER RECEPTION**

The 350kW medium wave transmitter – relocated from Junglinster to Marnach to provide a better reception in England and Scandinavia – goes into service.

**15 JULY 1957**

## **GERMAN RADIO**

A radio programme in German is reintroduced on medium wave 208. The programme is to become a phenomenal success. Years later, it will be renamed RTL – Der Oldie Sender, and will specialise in an 'oldies' format. Today, we know it as RTL Radio, Deutschlands Hit-Radio.

Télé Luxembourg is now entirely broadcast from the Villa Louvigny.

**19 OCTOBER 1959**

## **EXTENSION**

The radio programme in Luxembourgish is extended, and transferred from medium wave to short wave 92.5. Today's RTL Radio Lëtzebuerg is born.

# The sixties

Increasing the power of its long and medium wave transmitters, Radio Luxembourg - which now bears the name RTL – becomes one of the most powerful private radio broadcasters in the world.

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1960

## CONNECTION CUT

After a live interview with the Algerian leader, Ferhat Abbas, broadcast by Radio Luxembourg, the cable connecting Paris to Luxembourg is cut for two hours by the French Minister of Information.

APRIL 1965

## BECOMING FRENCH?

The French state plans to acquire part of the capital of the CLT through the government-owned SOFIRAD (Société financière de radiodiffusion). The plan is abandoned due to opposition from the Luxembourgish Government.

11 OCTOBER 1966

## RTL

Radio Luxembourg in France is rebranded RTL.

21 SEPTEMBER 1969

## HEI ELEI KUCK ELEI

A new TV programme in Luxembourgish is born. The two-hour mixed programming show – *Hei Elei Kuck Elei* – broadcast every Sunday, is the predecessor of today's RTL Télé Lëtzebuerg.



# The seventies

The seventies witness the birth of colour television. Télé Luxembourg goes from strength to strength, following its radio sister's footsteps.

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**15 OCTOBER 1972**

## **NOW IN COLOUR**

Télé Luxembourg makes its first colour broadcast. The success of the channel increases in North-East France and the South of Belgium.

**19 OCTOBER 1972**

## **BEIDWEILER**

Powerful long wave transmitters go in service in Beidweiler. The transmitters in Junglinster are used as back up.

**APRIL 1973**

## **AUDIOFINA**

The holding Compagnie luxembourgeoise pour l'Audio-Visuel et la Finance, Audiofina, is formed on the basis of CLT shares. Audiofina, after several transactions, holds in the year 1974 up to 54.63 per cent of CLT's capital, becoming the driving force of the company.

**4 DECEMBER 1975**

## **RTL PRODUCTIONS**

RTL Productions – a Luxembourg-based production company – is created.

**1979**

## **TÉLÉ STAR**

CLT buys the French TV magazine *Télé Star* – created in 1976 – in which it already held parts since 1977, marking the company's entry into the publishing business.

# The eighties

Deregulation begins across Europe, and European countries open their doors to private TV and radio. CLT moves closer to its audiences, setting up subsidiaries in the main European countries.

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**31 JULY 1981**

## **SAD DAY**

A Belgian military jet crashes into the TV antenna in Dudelange killing three people.

RTL Télé Luxembourg is allowed direct access to the Belgian cable network.

**JANUARY 1982**

## **RTL TÉLÉVISION**

RTL Télé Luxembourg is renamed RTL Télévision.

**2 JANUARY 1984**

## **RTL PLUS**

The commercial TV channel RTL Plus is launched in partnership with UFA, a Bertelsmann company (today RTL Television, and market leader in Germany). On 2 January, the TV channel RTL Plus begins broadcasting a German programme from Luxembourg. The programme bears the slogan 'RTL Plus – the refreshingly different programme' ('Das erfrischend andere Programm'), and a new RTL Plus logo.

**MARCH 1987**

## **M6**

The TV channel M6 is launched in France.

CLT initially owns a 25 per cent stake in M6, which becomes a publicly listed company in September 1994.

Since February 2004, RTL Group has been recognised as the principal shareholder in Groupe M6 by the French media regulator, CSA, owning a 48.5 per cent economic interest.

**12 SEPTEMBER 1987**

## **RTL-TVI**

RTL-TVI is launched in Belgium.

**1 SEPTEMBER 1989**

## **ATLANTIC 252**

Atlantic 252 – a radio station in English – is launched in Ireland.

**2 OCTOBER 1989**

## **ENTERING THE DUTCH MARKET**

The Netherlands sees the launch of RTL Véronique (renamed RTL 4 in 1990) – a TV channel in the Dutch language.

# The nineties

CLT continues to expand into new countries, setting up a complementary network of TV channels and radio stations and thus beginning to create families of channels. At the end of the nineties, the merger of CLT and UFA creates the leading European broadcaster and production house, and is a turning point in CLT's history: CLT-UFA is the European Entertainment Enterprise.

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1991

## NEW STARTS AND END OF A LEGEND

The new building at Kirchberg is inaugurated: it will become the Group's administrative and radio headquarters. TV activities remain in the now legendary Villa Louvigny.

Radio Luxembourg, the medium wave programme that contributed to the reputation of CLT in Europe – particularly the UK – for many decades, stops broadcasting on medium wave. This eventually leads to the shut-down of the station, though CLT is still present in the UK via Atlantic 252.

After the acquisition of a stake in Radio Contact in 1990, CLT launches the radio stations Bel RTL in Belgium and 104.6 RTL in Germany.

21 OCTOBER 1991

## DAILY LUXEMBOURGISH PROGRAMME

*RTL Hei Elei*, a daily evening programme in Luxembourgish, offers news and magazines to the Grand Duchy. On 25 September 1995 it is replaced by the programme *Eng Stonn fir Lëtzebuerg* which marks the start of today's RTL Télé Lëtzebuerg.

1993

## NEW CHANNELS

The TV channel Vox is launched in Germany on 25 January.

The TV channels RTL II in Germany (6 March) and RTL 5 in the Netherlands (2 October) are launched.

The company acquires a stake in Fun Radio, a French music radio station.

1995

## FURTHER EXPANSION

RTL 2 – previously M40 – a French music radio station is launched 18 January.

Club RTL in Belgium (22 February) and Super RTL in Germany (28 April) – a joint venture with Disney – are launched.

Dutch-language radio and TV station, Veronica, is launched 1 September. The channel – based in Hilversum – is to become Yorin and Yorin FM in 2001.

1996

## MOVING FORWARD

Following an agreement between CLT and the Luxembourgish Government, the Orchestre Symphonique de RTL becomes the official state orchestra, and is renamed Orchestre Philharmonique du Luxembourg.

The opening ceremony for a second building at Kirchberg – the new TV centre – takes place. Television and radio are brought together on one site, and the Villa Louvigny is sold.

TV and radio stations in the Netherlands are united under a single organisation, HMG (renamed RTL Nederland in 2004).

1996

## NEW VENTURES

Téva, a digital thematic channel, is launched in France (6 October).

RTL7 is launched in Poland on 7 December. This new TV channel in Polish – based in Warsaw and Luxembourg – is sold in 2001, due to its limited technical reach.

TPS, a new digital pay-TV offering, is launched in France (16 December). Plans for a similar offering in Germany – to be named Club RTL – are cancelled due to uncertainties surrounding technical stands and the high costs of broadcasting rights. Market conditions for TPS appear to be more favourable. CLT holds 20 per cent of TPS (which is subsequently sold to Suez Lyonnaise des Eaux and M6 in 1998).

Following the sale of Groupe Télé Star to EMAP, the Group decides to withdraw from the publishing business to focus on its strengths: television and radio.

13 JANUARY 1997

## CLT-UFA

CLT-UFA is created. Bertelsmann, shareholder of UFA, and Audiofina, shareholder of CLT, merge their TV, radio and production businesses to create Europe's leading commercial TV, radio and production company. The new company combines the strengths of CLT – a leader in pan-European broadcasting, and creator of the RTL brand – with the historic UFA, a major player in broadcasting, production and rights.

As a result of the merger, CLT-UFA significantly reinforces its position in Germany, and becomes the major shareholder in RTL Television and RTL II.

30 MARCH 1997

## CHANNEL 5

Channel 5, in which the CLT-UFA holds 29 per cent, is launched in the UK – the UK's only purely advertising-based terrestrial channel – subsequently becomes Five in 2002.

AUGUST 1997

## THE MERGER

Following the merger, CLT-UFA's priority is to realise potential for synergies and to create new links between the various divisions and companies. CLT and UFA bring together their fiction rights to form CLT-UFA International. The newly created UFA Sports – Europe's leading sports rights company – provides the TV channels with sports coverage. At the same time, channels start to share their knowledge.

27 OCTOBER 1997

## RTL KLUB

RTL Klub is launched in Hungary.

24 DECEMBER 1997

## HAVAS INTERMÉDIATION

The company purchases Havas Intermédiation, a French company with subsidiaries across Europe, mostly operating under the IP ('Information & Publicité') name. IP sells advertising space for CLT-UFA's radio stations and TV channels. In 1998, IP's national companies are integrated in the respective national stations and channels.

1998

## REJECTION

The EU Commission rejects the planned pay-TV merger of Premiere and DF1 (Kirch Group). The deal was designed to develop pay-TV in Germany through a restructured Premiere. In 1999, CLT-UFA sells its 45 per cent stake in Premiere to Kirch Group, and focuses on free-to-air TV.

26 APRIL 1999

## FOOTBALL

Groupe M6 becomes the main shareholder of the French football club FC Girondins de Bordeaux.

# The new century

CLT-UFA becomes RTL Group, the leading pan-European broadcasting and production company, and aims to increase stakes in its channels wherever possible.

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**2000**

## **INCREASING STAKES**

CLT-UFA increases its stakes in Vox and Channel 5.

**APRIL 2000**

## **RTL GROUP IS FORMED**

The merger of CLT-UFA and Pearson Television – a London-based content production company – creates Europe's leading integrated broadcaster and content provider: RTL Group. RTL Group is listed on the London, Brussels and Luxembourg stock exchanges. The merger significantly reinforces RTL Group's position in the content business. Pearson Group's stakes in Antena 3 – a Spanish TV channel – and in Channel 5 are brought into RTL Group as part of the merger.

**JULY 2001**

## **BERTELSMANN**

Following a share swap with GBL – in which GBL exchanged its 30 per cent stake in RTL Group for a 25 per cent stake in Bertelsmann AG – Bertelsmann becomes majority shareholder of RTL Group. On 11 May, the European Commission approved RTL Group's new shareholding structure. Bertelsmann now holds a 67 per cent majority in RTL Group.

**2001**

## **RESHUFFLE**

RTL Group, Canal Plus Group and Groupe Jean-Claude Darmon sign an agreement to merge their sports rights activities, creating Sportfive, the leading sports rights company.

RTL Group retreats from the UK radio market and the Polish TV market, selling Atlantic 252 to Teamtalk, and RTL 7 to ITI Group.

Pearson Television is rebranded FremantleMedia on 20 August.

In December, Bertelsmann enters into an agreement with Pearson, to acquire Pearson's 22 per cent stake in RTL Group.

**FEBRUARY 2002**

## **IDOLS**

The final of the FremantleMedia production *Pop Idol* wins a huge UK audience, inspiring the start of a successful international roll-out of the *Idols* format.

**AUGUST 2002**

## **ACQUISITIONS IN GERMANY**

RTL Group acquires German news channel N-TV, plus various holdings in German radio stations from Holtzbrinck, including Radio NRW, Antenne Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, Antenne Thüringen, BB Radio, Antenne Niedersachsen, and Radio Brocken.

**DECEMBER 2002**

## **DELISTING**

RTL Group delists from the London Stock Exchange but remains listed on the Brussels and Luxembourg stock exchanges.

**MARCH 2003**

## **NEW CEO**

Gerhard Zeiler is appointed CEO of RTL Group.

**1 JUNE 2003**

## **RTL FM**

HMG is awarded a frequency for a new radio station, RTL FM, and improved coverage for Yorin FM.

2004

## FURTHER EXPANSION

In January, M6 acquires Paris Première, a pay-TV channel based in Paris.

The Belgian family of RTL channels is expanded, with the launch of Plug TV (renamed Plug RTL in 2008) in February.

In April, RTL Group launches the Croatian TV channel RTL Televizija, increasing the company's presence in Eastern Europe.

RTL Group sells its interest in Sportfive in June and completes a new transaction with Advent International. Funds managed by Advent International and RTL Group are used to form a new company that purchases the shares in Sportfive that were formerly held by RTL Group and Canal Plus Group. RTL Group holds a 25 per cent share of this new company. RTL Group acquires an 11.6 per cent holding in Grupo Media Capital – a leading Portuguese television and media company – through the free-to-air broadcaster TVI.

23 JANUARY 2005

## 50 YEARS OF TV

RTL Group celebrates the 50th anniversary of television broadcasts from Luxembourg.

31 MARCH 2005

## W9

M6 Group launches the free digital terrestrial channel, W9.

SEPTEMBER 2005

## 100 PER CENT

The Group buys the remaining shares in the UK TV channel, Five, taking RTL Group's shareholding to 100 per cent.

OCTOBER 2005

## ENTERING THE RUSSIAN MARKET

RTL Group acquires a 30 per cent shareholding in the Russian TV network, Ren TV.

2006

## MORE CHANNELS

In the UK, Five launches two new digital thematic channels – Five Life and Five US. Meanwhile, in Germany, RTL Television launches RTL Crime, RTL Living, and Passion (a joint venture with UFA).

RTL Group sells its stake in the sports and marketing company Sportfive.

2007

## NEW ACTIVITIES

RTL Group sells its entire shareholding in the Portuguese media company, Grupo Media Capital, to Grupo Prisa.

RTL Nederland launches on 18 August the family's fourth free-TV channel, RTL 8.

The asset deal between RTL Group and John de Mol's Talpa Media Holding – which brought Radio 538 into the Group – is closed in October.

2008

## NEW VENTURES

RTL Group acquires 66.6 per cent of Alpha Media Group in Greece.

RTL Group and FremantleMedia jointly launch UFA Cinema. RTL Group re-establishes the marketing agency UFA Sports.

20 FEBRUARY 2009

## ORIGINAL PRODUCTIONS

FremantleMedia acquires a 75 per cent stake in Original Productions, the US-based creator of hit television shows such as *Ice Road Truckers*, *Deadliest Catch*, *Monster Garage* and *Ax Men*.

26 FEBRUARY 2009

## LUDIA

FremantleMedia announced a strategic minority equity investment in Ludia, a leading developer and publisher of interactive casual games based in Montreal, Canada.

2 & 29 OCTOBER 2009

## RTL LOUNGE

On 2 October, RTL Nederland launches RTL Lounge, the fifth TV channel in its portfolio. RTL Lounge is a special-interest digital channel that broadcasts the best Dutch and foreign drama and lifestyle programmes. On 29 October, RTL Nederland launches RTL Lounge Radio.

16 DECEMBER 2009

## SELLING STAKE

RTL Radio Deutschland sells its stake in Antenne Mecklenburg-Vorpommern.

**16 APRIL 2010**

## **FOURONE MEDIA**

FremantleMedia acquires 100 per cent of Netherlands-based independent production company FourOne Media.

**26 APRIL 2010**

## **100 PER CENT BLU**

FremantleMedia buys a further 25 per cent stake of Denmark-based production company Blu, taking its ownership to 100 per cent.

**7 MAY 2010**

## **STOCKING UP**

RTL Radio Deutschland is increasing its current 36 per cent holding in Hit-Radio Antenne Niedersachsen to 49.9 per cent, the maximum currently allowed under Lower Saxon media law. This further enhances its position as the station's largest single shareholder.

**23 JULY 2010**

## **SELLING FIVE**

RTL Group sells Five Group (Five) to the Northern & Shell company, owned by British publisher, Richard Desmond.

**2 AUGUST 2010**

## **NITRO**

Grupo Antena 3 is test-launching its third digital channel on 2 August. Called Nitro, the new channel takes up its regular operation from 23 August, and caters primarily to men aged 35 to 55.

**2 JANUARY 2011**

## **SECOND CHANNEL IN CROATIA**

RTL Televizija launches a second channel: RTL 2.

**27 APRIL 2011**

## **SLAM FM AND SLAM TV**

RTL Nederland acquires Slam FM and Slam TV.

**10 JUNE 2011**

## **SWAPPING STAKES**

RTL Group exchanges its 30 per cent stake in Ren TV for a 7.5 per cent stake in National Media Group, one of the leading media groups in Russia.

**25 JULY 2011**

## **INCREASING TO 100 PER CENT**

RTL Group has reached agreements with its Croatian business partners, Atlantic and Agrokor to acquire their respective 13 per cent shareholdings in the Croatian broadcasting operation RTL Hrvatska (RTL Televizija, RTL 2), increasing RTL Group's share to 100 per cent.

**28 JULY 2011**

## **EXPANDING IN HUNGARY**

RTL Group acquires 31 per cent of the shares in the country's market-leading channel, RTL Klub, plus 100 per cent of a portfolio of seven cable channels Cool, Film+, Film+2, Reflektor, Prizma, Sorozat+, Muzsika TV.

**1 SEPTEMBER 2011**

## **RTL CRIME**

RTL Nederland launches a second digital channel: RTL Crime.

**1 JANUARY 2012**

## **RTL GROUP EXERCISES ITS PUT OPTION TOWARDS JOHN DE MOL'S TALPA MEDIA HOLDING**

Following this put option, RTL Group gets back Talpa Media's 26.3 per cent minority shareholding in RTL Nederland in exchange for 100 per cent of the shares in Radio 538. In addition, Talpa Media also takes over Radio 10 Gold and Slam FM from RTL Nederland.

**5 JANUARY 2012**

## **LEAVING GREECE**

RTL Group sells its 70 per cent majority shareholding in Alpha Media Group to the Greek entrepreneur, Dimitris Contominas.

**7 FEBRUARY 2012**

## **NEW MANAGEMENT**

Anke Schäferkordt and Guillaume de Posch are appointed as Co-CEOs. They succeed long-term CEO Gerhard Zeiler (2003 to 2012). Under the leadership of Gerhard Zeiler, RTL Group's operating profit grew from €400 million to €1.1 billion and its profit margin doubled to 20 per cent. Also, every broadcasting family increased their audience shares, while FremantleMedia developed into the most successful, globally operating non-American content company.

**1 APRIL 2012**

## **RTL NITRO**

Mediengruppe RTL Deutschland launches RTL Nitro, a digital channel showing high-end German Free-TV premieres and crime and sitcom classics, as well as riveting movies.

**3 SEPTEMBER 2012**

## **RTL TELEKIDS**

RTL Nederland launches a new digital channel aimed at children: RTL Telekids.

**1 OCTOBER 2012**

## **GRUPO ANTENA 3 MERGES WITH LA SEXTA**

The new group operates eight TV channels: Antena 3, La Sexta, Neox, Nova, Nitro, Xplora, La Sexta 3 Todo Cine and Gol TV.

**1 OCTOBER 2012**

## **NEW CABLE CHANNEL**

RTL Klub launches a new cable channel: RTL II.

**5 NOVEMBER 2012**

## **RTL GROUP GOES INDIA**

In cooperation with Reliance Broadcast Network, RTL Group launches its first channel outside of Europe: Big RTL Thrill starts broadcasting in India on 5 November.

**12 DECEMBER 2012**

## **A SISTER CHANNEL**

Groupe M6 launches a new DTT channel: 6ter.

**1 JANUARY 2013**

## **REFLEKTOR**

Reflektor ceases broadcasting in Hungary.

**23 JANUARY 2013**

## **SELLING STAKE**

RTL Radio Deutschland sells its stake in Big FM and Radio Regenbogen.

**6 MARCH 2013**

## **REBRANDING**

Grupo Antena 3 is renamed to Atresmedia.

**4 APRIL 2013**

## **BERTELSMANN CONFIRMS ITS INTENTION TO REDUCE ITS SHAREHOLDING IN RTL GROUP**

Bertelsmann reduces its shareholding in RTL Group via a public offering to 75.1 per cent. Following the transaction, RTL Group's shares are now listed on the regulated market (Prime Standard) of the Frankfurt Stock Exchange. In September 2013 RTL Group shares were included in the MDax index. It was the largest media IPO in Europe since 2004.

**26 JUNE 2013**

## **BROADBANDTV**

RTL Group takes a majority stake in Vancouver-based multi-channel network (MCN) BroadbandTV.

**7 AUGUST 2013**

## **VIDEOLAND**

RTL Nederland announced that it has acquired a majority stake in Videoland, a pay video-on-demand (VOD) platform owned by The Entertainment Group (TEG), a leading film content provider in the Benelux.

**13 AUGUST 2013**

## **RTL CBS ASIA ENTERTAINMENT NETWORK**

RTL Group and CBS Studios International form the joint venture RTL CBS Asia Entertainment Network to launch two channels in South East Asia: RTL CBS Entertainment and RTL CBS Extreme.

**31 AUGUST 2013**

## **RENAMING**

Hit-Radio Antenne renamed to Antenne Niedersachsen.

**1 SEPTEMBER 2013**

## **RTL CBS ENTERTAINMENT HD**

RTL CBS Entertainment HD on air in first South Asian territories.

**19 SEPTEMBER 2013**

## **LEAVING RUSSIA**

RTL Group sells its 7.5 per cent stake in National Media Group.



**26 SEPTEMBER 2013**

## **DIVIMOVE**

FremantleMedia acquires a 26 per cent minority stake in the multi-channel network (MCN) Divimove.

**11 JANUARY 2014**

## **NEW CHILDREN'S CHANNEL**

RTL Hrvatska launches the new children's channel RTL Kockica.

**26 MARCH 2014**

## **495 PRODUCTIONS**

FremantleMedia acquires a majority stake in the US-based production company 495 Productions.

**27 MARCH 2014**

## **A SECOND CHANNEL**

RTL CBS Asia Entertainment Network launches its second channel: RTL CBS Extreme HD.

**8 MAY 2014**

## **GEO TELEVISION**

Mediengruppe RTL Deutschland launches new documentary channel Geo Television.

**8 MAY 2014**

## **TERMINATION OF THE JOINT VENTURE IN INDIA**

On 8 May 2014, RTL Group disclosed in its first quarter report that – at the end of April 2014 – the Group notified its co-shareholder Reliance Broadcast Network Limited (RBNL) of the termination of the joint venture agreement in relation to the male-oriented action channel Big RTL Thrill in India.

**31 JULY 2014**

## **SPOTXCHANGE**

RTL Group announces to acquire a majority stake of 65 per cent in programmatic video advertising platform SpotXchange. In 2015, the company re-names to SpotX.

**3 NOVEMBER 2014**

## **STYLEHAUL**

RTL Group acquires a majority stake in StyleHaul – the largest fashion, beauty and women's lifestyle network in online video.

**31 DECEMBER 2014**

## **GOODBYE**

M6 announces the closure of TV channel TF6 as of 31 December 2014 midnight.

**4 JANUARY 2015**

## **M6 MUSIC BLACK & M6 MUSIC CLUB**

Groupe M6 has decided to cease operating and broadcasting the channels M6 Music Black and M6 Music Club.

**20 JANUARY 2015**

## **BUZZR TV**

FremantleMedia North America (FMNA) announces the launch of Buzzr TV, a digital multicast channel devoted to vintage video games.

**23 JANUARY 2015**

## **DIVIMOVE**

FremantleMedia announces that it has increased its shareholding in Europe's leading multi-channel network (MCN) Divimove, making it the majority shareholder (51 per cent).

**12 FEBRUARY 2015**

## **CORONA TV**

FremantleMedia announces it is taking a 25 per cent stake in Corona TV, the newly-created TV production company from renowned filmmaking duo Richard Johns and Rupert Jermyn.

**21 APRIL 2015**

## **YOBOHO**

BroadbandTV announces the acquisition of kid's content producer and publisher YoBoHo.

**7 MAY 2015**

## **LAGARDÈRE UNLIMITED ACQUIRES UFA SPORTS**

Lagardère Unlimited announces its acquisition of UFA Sports, the European based sports marketing subsidiary, from RTL Group.

**27 AUGUST 2015**

## **WILDSIDE**

FremantleMedia announces the acquisition of a 62.5 per cent majority stake in Wildside, a leading Italian television and feature film producer, to strengthen its prime time scripted portfolio.

**8 SEPTEMBER 2015**

## **FONTARAM**

FremantleMedia announces that it acquired a majority stake in Fontaram, the newly formed French scripted company from renowned French producer/writer partners François Aramburu and Pascal Fontanille.

**17 SEPTEMBER 2015**

## **NAKED ENTERTAINMENT**

FremantleMedia announces that it has taken a 25 per cent stake in Naked Entertainment, the newly formed production company from multi award-winning producer, Simon Andreae.

**18 SEPTEMBER 2015**

## **NO PICTURES PLEASE**

FremantleMedia announces that it has taken a 75 per cent stake in Dutch business No Pictures Please, a controversial factual programming company owned by popular presenter and producer Ewout Genemans.

**7 SEPTEMBER 2015**

## **RTL Z**

RTL Nederland launches the new TV channel RTL Z which focuses on Business, Finance, Tech and Lifestyle. With the slogan “Business, not as usual”, the channel targets Dutch viewers with an entrepreneur mindset. The two other pillars of its programme schedule are digital and live events. The new RTL Z is RTL Nederland’s fifth free-to-air channel besides RTL 4, RTL 5, RTL 7 and RTL 8.

**2 OCTOBER 2015**

## **KWAÏ**

FremantleMedia announces that it has acquired a majority stake in French scripted producer Kwaï.

**1 JANUARY 2016**

## **TAIL SLATE FOR MARNACH**

The medium wave transmitter site in the north of Luxembourg closes its doors after almost 60 years in operation. The now cult English-language station Radio Luxembourg broadcast on the famous ‘Two-O-Eight’, a medium wave frequency of 208 metres, until 1991. Medium wave broadcasts of the English programme were initially transmitted from the site in Junglinster, starting on 15 January 1951, and joined by programmes in Dutch in 1953. But on 14 December 1956, these broadcasts were moved to Marnach to guarantee better signal reception, primarily in the UK and Scandinavia. On 15 July 1957,

Radio Luxemburg’s day-time German-language programmes followed suit.

**4 JANUARY 2016**

## **A TANG OF FRESHNESS**

Mint, RTL Belgium’s pop rock radio station, which graced the airwaves with its own particular brand of freshness between January 2007 and September 2008, returns to the FM waveband.

**21 JANUARY 2016**

## **ABOT HAMEIRI**

FremantleMedia announces that it acquired a 51 per cent majority stake in Abot Hameiri, a leading Israeli production company specialising in entertainment formats, scripted reality and drama.

**22 FEBRUARY 2016**

## **L’ESSENTIEL RADIO**

L’Essentiel Radio is launched in Luxembourg, on 107.7 FM, by Prime Minister and Communication and Media Minister Xavier Bettel. CLT-UFA has a 25 per cent stake in this French-speaking radio.

**21 MARCH 2016**

## **INVESTMENT IN ONLINE VIDEO ADVERTISING SALES**

Mediengruppe RTL Deutschland announced the acquisition of a 93.75 per cent majority stake in Smartclip, with a call option to acquire the remaining shares.

**APRIL 2016**

## **DIVIMOVE**

In April 2016, RTL Group exercised the option to acquire an additional 24.5 per cent interest in Divimove, bringing the Group’s shareholding to 75.5 per cent.

**4 JUNE 2016**

## **TWO MORE CHANNELS**

Mediengruppe RTL Deutschland launches two new channels, RTL Plus and Toggo Plus.

**11 JULY 2016**

## **FROM CROATIA TO THE WORLD**

RTL Croatia expands its offer by launching RTL Croatia World, the first channel dedicated to Croats living outside the country.

19 APRIL 2017

## NEW HEADQUARTERS

RTL Group officially inaugurates its new headquarters, henceforth to be known as 'RTL City'. Set just a short walk away from the former premises, it has been designed to house the Group's Luxembourgish activities.

17 JULY 2017

## RTL 9: A CHAPTER CLOSES

CLT-UFA has sold the 35 per cent shareholding that the Group still held in RTL 9 (which emerged from the pioneering channel Télé Luxembourg) since 1998 to Groupe AB.

JANUARY 2018

## SOLE LEADERSHIP

Following the resignation of Guillaume de Posch on 13 December 2017, Bert Habets became sole CEO of RTL Group. At the same time, Elmar Heggen became Deputy CEO of RTL Group, in addition to his role as CFO.

10 SEPTEMBER 2018

## NEW BRANDING FOR FREMANTLEMEDIA

FremantleMedia rebrands to Fremantle and unveiled its new brand identity and logo, embodying the global creative powerhouse the group has become.

NOVEMBER 2018

## LEADERSHIP CHANGE AT MEDIENGRUPPE RTL DEUTSCHLAND

RTL Group announced that the Group and Anke Schäferkordt jointly decided, with mutual consent and under the best terms, not to renew her contract as CEO of Mediengruppe RTL Deutschland. Bernd Reichart, at that time Managing Director of Vox, became the new CEO of Mediengruppe RTL Deutschland as of 1 January 2019. During her 13 years as CEO of the company, Mediengruppe RTL Deutschland has systematically expanded its portfolio of linear TV channels and digital services and has more than tripled its operating profit (EBITA) from €240 million (2005) to more than €700 million (2017: €725 million).

7 NOVEMBER 2018

## GROUPE M6

In November 2018, Groupe M6 announced that it has finalised the sale of the Football Club Girondins de Bordeaux to the US investment fund General American Capital Partners (GACP).

1 DECEMBER 2018

## DIVIMOVE

RTL Group stepped up its shareholding in Divimove to 100 per cent.

1 APRIL 2019

## NEW LEADERSHIP AT RTL GROUP

The Board of Directors of RTL Group appointed its Chairman Thomas Rabe to the position of Chief Executive Officer (CEO), due to Bert Habets resignation as CEO of RTL Group for personal considerations. Martin Taylor, at that time Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors of RTL Group, was appointed Chairman and James Singh as Vice Chairman.

28 AUGUST 2019

## RTL GROUP NEW LEADERSHIP STRUCTURE

RTL Group announced a new leadership structure. RTL Group's Board of Directors appointed Elmar Heggen as the Group's Chief Operating Officer (COO) and Björn Bauer as the Group's new Chief Financial Officer (CFO). On the same day it also announced the establishment of a Group Management Committee (GMC). Composed of the members of the Executive Committee (Thomas Rabe, Elmar Heggen, Björn Bauer) and the CEOs of the Group's three largest business units – Bernd Reichart (CEO of Mediengruppe RTL Deutschland), Nicolas de Tavernost (CEO of Groupe M6) and Jennifer Mullin (CEO of Fremantle), the GMC has been set to drive the strategic agenda of RTL Group and foster cooperation.

2019

## REORGANISATION OF THE DIGITAL ASSETS

### Short-form video

In January 2019, RTL Group combined Divimove and UFA X into one integrated powerhouse for the production, aggregation and monetisation of short-form video content in Europe. In July 2019 RTL Group announced that it would combine its digital video business in the Nordics (United Screens) with Divimove. The Group also announced that it plans to integrate the Dutch RTL MCN into the combined entity. In 2019, RTL Group also announced its decision to fully exit the StyleHaul business. The operational wind-down of StyleHaul is expected to be finalised during the second half of 2020.

### Ad-tech businesses

In February 2019, RTL Group fully acquired the UK-based video technology company Yospace. With its advanced solutions for dynamic server-side ad

insertion, Yospace further complements the SpotX platform, providing one of the leading solutions for monetising high-quality video streaming across Europe, the US and Asia. In August 2019, RTL Group announced a strategic review of its ad-tech businesses. With immediate effect, Mediengruppe RTL Deutschland took over the responsibility for the Group's ad-tech businesses in all European markets (except the UK), bundled under the brand Smartclip. The UK would continue to be the hub that centralises the operations for SpotX Global in Europe. In parallel, RTL Group has begun reviewing strategic partnerships for the SpotX Global business.

**7 SEPTEMBER 2019**

## **GROUPE M6**

In September 2019, Groupe M6 acquired France's leading free-to-air digital channel for children, Gulli, and five pay-TV channels from Lagardère.

**2 DECEMBER 2019**

## **VOX UP**

Mediengruppe RTL Deutschland launches the channel Vox Up. It is a spin-off of Vox, which is particularly popular among female viewers. Vox Up's programme line-up includes expanded showcases for popular Vox formats, high-quality US fiction series and, right from the outset, some in-house productions.

**JANUARY 2020**

## **RTL GROUP IN COLOGNE**

Following a reorganisation of the RTL Group Corporate Centre in Luxembourg, RTL Group opens its new Corporate Centre in Cologne, Germany. The global and local service providers, such as Internal Services, IT/GTRS and Treasury & Risk, continue to operate from the Corporate Centre in Luxembourg.

**20 OCTOBER 2020**

## **A JOINT FRENCH STREAMING SERVICE**

Launch of the French streaming service Salto, a collaboration of the main French broadcasters: Groupe M6, Groupe TF1 and France Télévisions. Salto's technical platform is built by Bedrock, a joint venture between RTL Group and Groupe M6.

**28 OCTOBER 2020**

## **BROADBANDTV**

RTL Group sells its entire shareholding in Vancouver-based digital video network BroadbandTV.

**15 DECEMBER 2020**

## **RTL PLAY IN LUXEMBOURG**

RTL Luxembourg launches its audio and video streaming service RTL Play, with content in Luxembourgish, French and English.

**28 DECEMBER 2020**

## **FULL OWNERSHIP**

RTL Group acquires the remaining shares in RTL Belgium for a payment in cash and RTL Group treasury shares. This takes RTL Group's shareholding in RTL Belgium to 100 per cent.

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