

Sky News Radio – IRN Network

Besides commercial radio, there are a number of community and hospital radio stations across the UK that uses Sky News Radio. Although freely available, Sky News Radio/IRN Net Newsroom is not a free service. For subscription details, contact IRN Administration.

To understand the network we have to look back through the years. Independent Radio News (IRN) was formed back in the early 1970's to provide a news service for the new commercial radio services. Although others have tried to provide an alternative (Network News, etc) only Sky News Radio (SNR) have competed strong enough to provide a 24 hour news service. This resulted with the IRN news service demise but Sky News Radio use the IRN satellite network to provide the service to radio stations. And so we now have Sky News Radio via the IRN network.

The IRN network uses a number of satellites to deliver audio across Europe. Eutelsat 9B carry the full service although the Sky News Radio service (SNR) is also available via Astra 2 which is the same satellite bouquet feeding Sky TV customers in the UK and Ireland.

The IRN Network is more than just satellite. Its Net Newsroom provides radio stations with written copy for local journalists to use via a fixed ip internet connection. The satellite service on Eutelsat 9B have two stereo channels available for use although one is split into two mono channels.

[IRN Network on Eutelsat 9B](#)

The audio channels currently used are:

IRN Channel 1 Mono - Standard news/sport channel with 2 minute bulletins on the hour

IRN Channel 2 Mono – Second channel used for special reports/live interviews and sports reports

IRN Channel 3 Stereo – IRN 3 is a stereo channel used to distribute programmes feeds such as some networked programmes.

[Receiving IRN via Eutelsat 9B \(updated August 2020\)](#)

Eutelsat 9B is a modern satellite with a strong European footprint. The IRN service (along with BBC DAB and Absolute Radio distribution) started using this satellite in July 2020 with closing its distribution service on Astra 4A on 31st December 2020.

The IRN service is available on these settings (updated August2020):

Transponder E20 (Europe footprint)

Frequency: 12.092 GHz Horizontal polarization

Symbol Rate: 27500

FEC: 3/4

DVB-S2/8PSK

The audio settings are:

Audio Channel 1 Stereo: Left=IRN 1 Mono/Right= IRN2 Mono*

Audio Channel 2 Stereo: IRN 3 Stereo

*Please note audio channel 1 is split to provide channels IRN 1 and IRN 2.

IRN via Astra 2E (Updated March 2021)

Sky News Radio is available on the Sky platform on the satellite Astra 2 but note that it is only the equivalent of IRN 1 providing Sky News Bulletins (updated March 2021).

Transponder 19 (Europe footprint) DVB-S QPSK

Frequency: 12.070 GHz Horizontal polarization

Symbol Rate: 27500

FEC: 5/6

Transponder 28 (Europe footprint) DVB-S2 8PSK

Frequency: 12246 Ghz Vertical polarisation

Symbol Rate: 27500

FEC: 2/3

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