

Herstedvester Radiofonistation Radio Danmark

The radio station in Herstedvester--commonly called Copenhagen's radio station--was built in 1933 at Gamle Landevej 42 in Albertslund. The station building and tower were designed by Post & Telegrafverket as the developer. The tower was constructed and designed by Prof. Nøkkentved and Friis-Jespersen, and the transmitter was built by the companies M. P. Pedersen and Dansk Radio A/S. Associated service homes were built "functional style" for the employees, and erected next to the radio station.

Herstedvester Radiofonistation was inaugurated on January 15, 1934, after two years of construction, and at that time was the most modern station in Europe, built to broadcast programs from the State Radio Service's Shortwave Department. The location at Albertslund was to replace the old radio station that transmitted from Tietgensgade in the center of Copenhagen. A 125 meter tall wooden mast was erected, resembling a mini version of the Eiffel Tower. The mast was made of Pitch pine (North American pine), and assembled with copper nails. It transmitted on a wavelength of 255 meters with power of 10 kW, and it was a vertical transmitter antenna, the first installed in Herstedvester.

From 1942, the output power increased to 20 kW on 1176 kHz, which was crystal controlled. The output stage was water-cooled in an outdoor fountain, as a new, more powerful transmitter was put into operation.

On October 1, 1948, Statsradiofonien's Short Wave Department inaugurated a new short wave transmitter for the Danish Short Wave Radio. In attendance was the King (His Majesty King Frederik IX), the Prime Minister (Hedtoft), the Minister of Education (Frisch), and the Folketing's President (Bomholt). Now the State Radio could be heard all over the world from a 50 kW transmitter. The transmitter was commissioned in 1941, but because of the war it took seven years to get delivered. The expansion totaled 2.7 million. kr.

Originally only one program was broadcast from the State Radio, but in connection with Program 2, opening on October 1, 1951, a 1430 kHz mediumwave transmitter was added. This was to provide better coverage in Copenhagen, which at that time was not well covered by the transmitter in Kalundborg. The antenna was directional to the east. Skive Radiophonistation broadcast on the same frequency in North Jutland.

Radio Denmark Shortwave--The Voice Of Denmark, with services in Spanish and English, closed on December 31, 1969, the result of savings in Danmarks Radio.

In 1975, new masts, of iron, were erected. Until all the new masts were erected, only the old wooden masts were active, with antennas aimed at Greenland and Africa.

FM transmissions began in 1983, and the mediumwave transmitter was switched off and the antennas dropped in 1989.

Denmark's Short Wave radio ceased broadcasting from Herstedvester Radiofonistation on February 12, 1990. The name changed to Radio Danmark, and Danmarks Radio leased time on the more powerful transmitter at Kvistsøy in Norway, which was operated by NRK (Norsk Riksringkasting) and which also broadcast Radio Norway International.

[The following was written before the Kvistsøy transmitters, and the Danish relay, ceased operation on December 31, 2003.] Radio Danmark's programs are news broadcasts, from an independent editorial office under Radioavisen. The news is edited according to importance, but with emphasis on Danish news or news that has relevance and significance for Denmark and Danish interests. The goal is to offer listeners outside Denmark a Danish-edited, serious news broadcast with a nationally and internationally comprehensive news image. Every day at 10:30 a.m. Danish time, Radio Danmark's first broadcast goes to the air. This is directly from the Radio House in Copenhagen. The broadcast is transmitted to Norway, where it is transmitted to the world via the Norwegian shortwave antennas. The broadcast is recorded at the same time on tape, and re-broadcast once an hour in different directions until 18:30, which is the time of the next news broadcast. It is retransmitted in the same way until the next morning at 10:30. During significant events, updated broadcasts are produced. During the weekend, special news items are presented. Furthermore, on the last Saturday of the month, the magazine "Stil Ind" is broadcast, with listener letters and news about Radio Danmark.