

# What does "DiSEqC" stand for?

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What a funny name, "DiSEqC". You've probably heard it used in regards to switches and motors. It's spelled really funny. Why are some of the letters inside the word capitalized?

It has a hidden meaning that describes what it does. **DiSEqC** stands for **D**igital **S**atellite **E**quipment **C**ontrol.

**DiSEqC** (Digital Satellite Equipment Control) is a special communication protocol for use between a satellite receiver and a DiSEqC device such as a multi-dish switch ([DiSEqC Switch](#)) or a small dish antenna rotor ([DiSEqC Motor](#)). It uses only the existing coaxial cable to transmit both bidirectional data/signals and power. DiSEqC is commonly used to control multi switches ([DiSEqC Switches](#)) and is more flexible than 13/18 volt and 22 kHz tone or ToneBurst/MiniDiSEqC techniques.

A number of variations of DiSEqC exist:

- DiSEqC 1.0, which allows switching between up to 4 satellite sources
- DiSEqC 1.1, which allows switching between up to 16 sources
- DiSEqC 1.2, which allows switching between up to 16 sources, and control of a simple horizontal-panning satellite motor
- DiSEqC 2.0, which adds bi-directional communications to DiSEqC 1.2

All four variations were standardized by February 1998, prior to general use of digital satellite television. They are all back compatible - a DiSEqC 2.0 receiver can control a 1.0 switch; but a 1.0 receiver cannot control motorized features.

The terms DiSEqC 1.3 and 2.3 are often used by manufacturers and retailers to refer to other protocols (1.3 usually refers to USALS receivers), but these uses are not authorized by Eutelsat, the developers of the system, who now act as the protocol standards agency.

Eutelsat developed the system to allow satellite users in Continental Europe to switch between the more popular SES Astra 1 block of satellites and Eutelsat's own Hotbird system. As a result, the vast majority of modern satellite receivers support at least DiSEqC 1.2. Most supporting receivers have received certification to carry a logo specifying which variation of DiSEqC they support.

References:

[DiSEqC Switch](#) | [DiSEqC Motor](#)

[DMS International](#) | [sales@dmsiusa.com](mailto:sales@dmsiusa.com)