

3.4 System Overview

This section helps you to get familiar with the R&S SMB. It provides an introduction to the general concept of the instrument with a sample of the possible application fields. It also describes the main blocks in the signal generation flow.

For information on how to access functions and interact with the R&S SMB, refer to [Chapter 3.5, "Instrument Control", on page 66](#).

3.4.1 Brief Introduction to the Instrument's Concept

The R&S SMB is a high-performance signal generator developed to meet demanding customer requirements. Offering excellent signal characteristic and straightforward and intuitive operation, the signal generator makes signal generation fast and easy.

3.4.2 Signal Flow at a Glance

The R&S SMB is equipped with an intuitive user interface. The central element of the display is the block diagram that shows the signal flow and processing from the left on the display to most right, i.e. the generated signal can be seen at a glance.

Each block represents a functional unit of the instrument. Thus you always know the position at which a parameter affects the signal flow. The main settings of a block are indicated in the block. The interconnection of employed inputs and outputs is also shown. The user is thus always informed about the connection of inputs and outputs in the signal flow and where they can be configured. A window is opened for each menu where parameters can be set. When the window is opened, an entry is made in the "Winbar" below the display. All open menus are of equal priority (not modal) and can be accessed any time.

The block diagram in the figure below shows a fully equipped instrument.

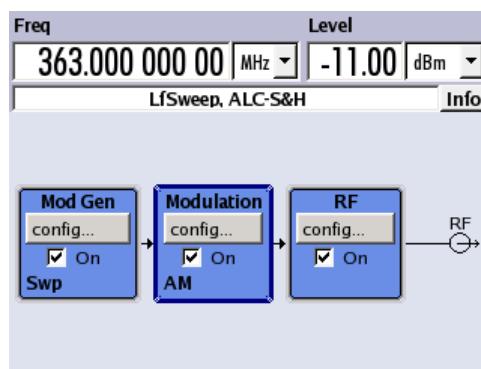


Figure 3-3: Block diagram of a fully equipped R&S SMB

With the rotary knob, you can navigate in the block diagram and the dialogs, and operate the instrument with one hand. The cursor is moved line by line through the block diagram or dialog. Turning the button clockwise advances the cursor. The selected