

CGMS SATELLITE GROUND RECEIVING DATABASE

(Submitted by WMO)

Summary and purpose of document

To inform CGMS Members of the database for
satellite ground receiving equipment

ACTION PROPOSED

CGMS Members to provide information for the database, as appropriate.

DISCUSSION

Introduction

1. The WMO Secretariat has developed and continues to maintain a database that contains information related to satellite receiving equipment. The purpose of this development was to identify the number and geographic distribution of satellite receiving equipment. Some applications of the database include: assisting the WMO Technical Commissions and Regional Associations in identifying where adequate reception equipment or gaps exist; assisting donors in determining where best to allocate resources; assisting the CBS Open Programme Area Group on Integrated Observing Systems in providing advice to CBS on ways to improve the utilization of satellite data; assisting the satellite operators in identifying users; providing an impetus to register satellite receiving equipment with national telecommunication administration; informing WMO Members as to the distribution of receiving equipment within each country; and informing ITU as to the utilization of frequencies allocated to environmental satellites.
2. Since CGMS-XXIII held in May 1995, a permanent action item has existed that "all satellite operators [will] provide WMO regularly with information on the number of meteorological satellite reception stations in their areas of responsibility".
3. The current database is now maintained in a Microsoft Access 2000 running under Windows 2000. The database is made up of tables, queries, forms, reports, modules and macros. The tables store all basic information regarding satellite receiving station; and others such as queries serve as analysis or presentation tools, taking appropriate data from the tables that match given conditions.
4. At present, there is a single table for satellite receiving equipment containing information from NMHS, Vendors, RIG, Individuals, EUMETSAT, JMA and NOAA. Most of the records in the table contain the station name, city and latitude/longitude. Some records contain mailing addresses, telephone numbers and email addresses. Each record in all tables contains specific information related to WMO Member name, Regional Association, type of low-resolution receiver (APT or WEFAX) and type of high-resolution receiver (HRPT or HR). A new category for direct broadcast from the R&D satellites has been added through the provision of information on reception sites from NASA for direct reception stations for Terra.
5. Since the last meeting of CGMS (CGMS-XXX, November 2002), WMO has only added a few new records to the database. The next request to WMO Members for updates to the database will occur in early 2004. Thus, a diskette version of the database will be distributed at CGMS-XXXI.