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Prepared by Japan
Agenda Item G.1
Discussed in Plenary

SCHEDULES OF MTSAT-1R OBSERVATIONS AND IMAGE DATA DISSEMINATION

This document describes the schedules of MTSAT-1R observations and image data dissemination.

Draft schedules of observation and image data dissemination are shown in Attachment-1 and -2.

Schedules of MTSAT-1R Observations and Image Data Dissemination

1. Introduction

The Multi-functional Transport Satellite-1 Replacement (MTSAT-1R), which is the successor to the Geostationary Meteorological Satellite-5 (GMS-5) and the replacement of MTSAT, is planned to be started its operation from the summer of 2003.

This document describes the draft schedule of observation and image data dissemination of MTSAT-1R.

2. Observation Schedule

The observation schedule of MTSAT-1R will consist of hourly full disk observation, hourly north hemisphere observation, and 6 hourly northern/southern hemisphere observation for deriving cloud/water vapor motion wind vectors. Draft schedules are shown in Attachment-1 and –2. It is possible to obtain half-hourly image data for north hemisphere and 6 hourly wind vectors from three successive 15-minute interval images.

3. Image Data Dissemination Schedule

3.1 Data Dissemination Service for MDUS

High Resolution Imager Data (HiRID) service will be started as a replacement of S-VISSR to be transmitted for the Medium-scale Data Utilization Stations (MDUSs). As HiRID format is upper compatible with S-VISSR format, existing MDUSs can receive and process HiRID without any modification.

High Rate Information Transmission (HRIT) service is planned to start in March 2005 for dissemination service of original resolution imagery, i.e. 1 km for visible and 4 km for infrared, without any reduction of radiometric capability of imager of MTSAT-1R to MDUSs. Since a communication link and data format are totally different from S-VISSR or HiRID, users need to install a new receiving system or change the receiver and the data processing software of the existing system.

During the period of about three years from March 2005 to the end of the meteorological mission of MTSAT-1R, HiRID and HRIT will be available via the same frequency band according to a time-shared broadcasting schedule (see Attachment-1 and –2).

3.2 Data Dissemination Service for SDUS

Law Rate Information Transmission (LRIT) will be put into operation in the summer of 2003, and a digital transmission service of cloud imageries and meteorological data to SDUSs will start. The meteorological data to be disseminated by LRIT includes numerical weather predictions (Grid Point Values), synoptic/upper-air observations and meteorological bulletins such as tropical cyclone advisories.

The current WEFAX dissemination service is also continued until March 2005.

However, the broadcast schedule for MTSAT-1R is planned to be changed slightly. WEFAX service will be terminated in March 2005.

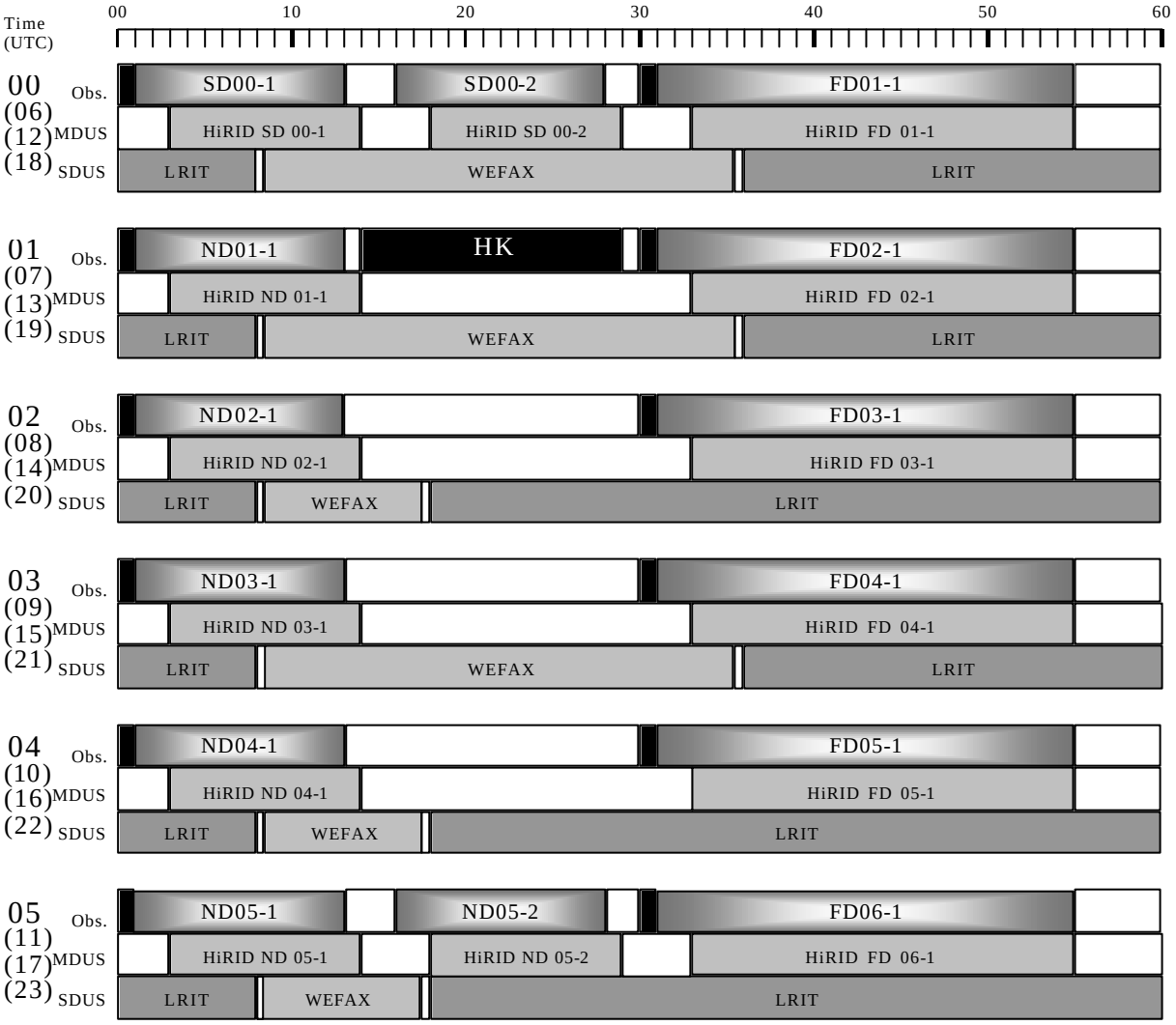
LRIT and WEFAX services will be available via the same frequency band according to a time-shared broadcasting schedule until March 2005 (see Attachment-1 and –2).

4. Relevant Documentations

Detailed information of LRIT, HiRID and HRIT are available in the following documentations:

(1) JMA LRIT Mission Specific Implementation (Issue 5, 1 December 2000),
(2) MTSAT HiRID Technical Information (Issue 3, 1 June 1999),
(3) JMA HRIT Mission Specific Implementation (Issue 1.1, 1 December 2000).

The Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) will deliver further information when it is available.



MTSAT-1R Observation and Dissemination Schedule for 2003-2004
(Draft)

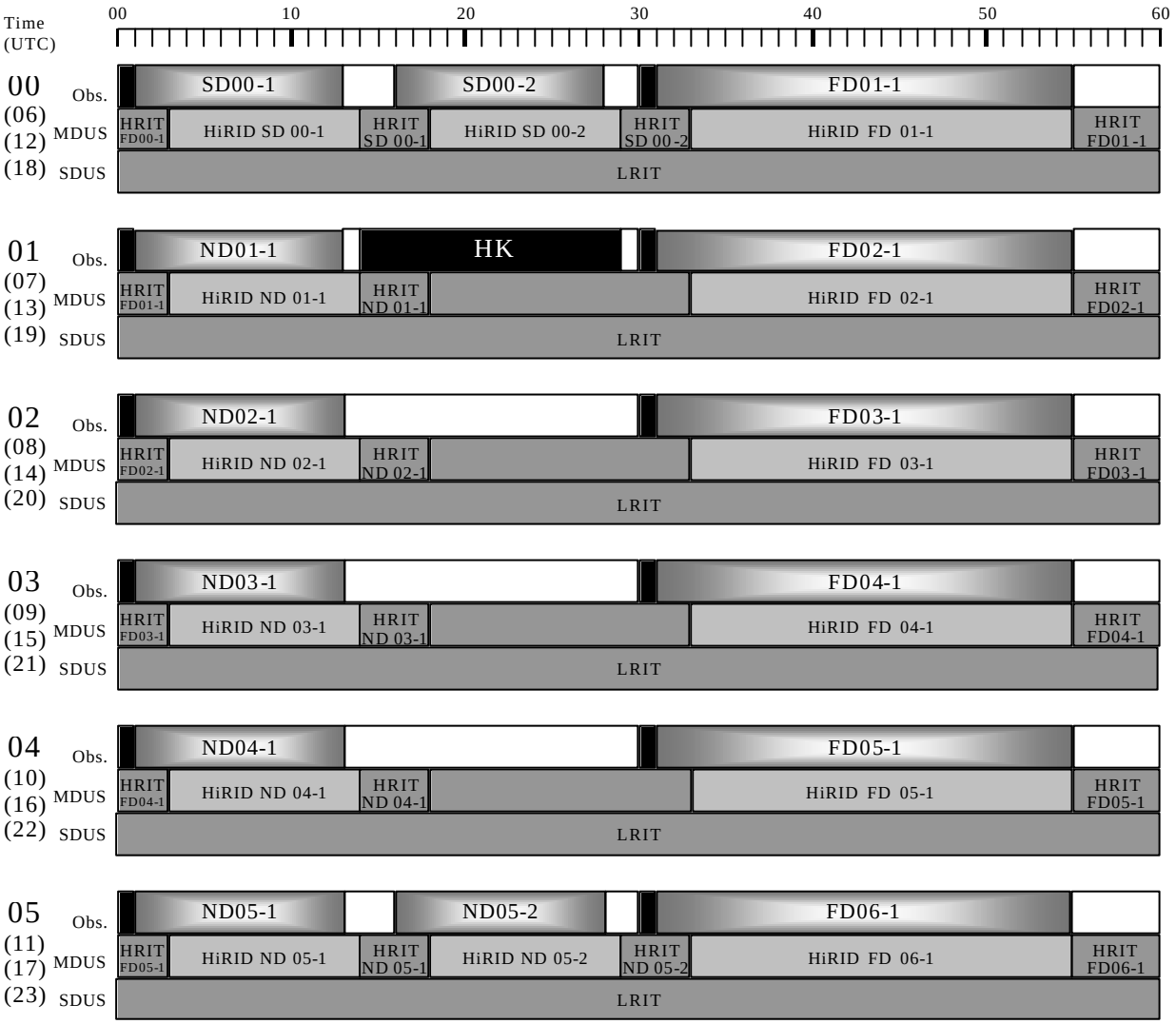
Legend:

- FD: Full Disk
- ND: Northern half Disk
- SD: Southern half Disk

Remark:

Observation schedule will be modified to adjust new imager of MTSAT-1R.

Attachment-2



MTSAT-1R Observation and Dissemination Schedule for 2005-2007 (Draft)

Legend:

- FD : Full Disk
- ND : Northern half Disk
- SD : Southern half Disk

Remark:

Observation schedule will be modified to adjust new imager of MTSAT-1R.