

FUTURE PLAN ON MULTI-FUNCTIONAL TRANSPORT SATELLITES

This document describes the future plan on Multi-functional Transport Satellites (MTSAT-1R, -2).

The planned operation schedule of both satellites is shown in figure of Attachment.

Future Plan on Multi-functional Transport Satellites

1. Introduction

The Multi-functional Transport Satellite (MTSAT) was to be taken over the Geostationary Meteorological Satellite-5 (GMS-5) in the spring of 2000. However, due to the failure of launch vehicle of MTSAT, the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) and the Japan Civil Aviation Bureau (JCAB) of Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport (MLIT) settled on a new plan to launch MTSAT-1R as a replacement of MTSAT in early 2003 and MTSAT-2 as the next one in 2004. Currently preparation has been progressing for operation of both satellites.

MTSAT-1R and MTSAT-2 are the multi-purpose satellites with aeronautical mission and meteorological mission.

2. Planned Operation Schedule

The planned operation schedule of both satellites is shown in figure of Attachment. Currently, MTSAT-1R will be started its operation from the summer of 2003. The meteorological mission of MTSAT-2 will start from 2008 after 3 years' stand-by operation in geostationary orbit.

3. LRIT and HiRID/HRIT Services

Low Rate Information Transmission (LRIT) will be put into operation when MTSAT-1R starts its service. LRIT data is newly to be disseminated to Small-scale Data Utilization Stations (SDUSs) in addition to WEFAX service. LRIT and WEFAX services will be available via the same frequency band by a time-shared broadcasting schedule until March 2005. The WEFAX service will not be disseminated after that time.

High Resolution Imager Data (HiRID) will also be put into operation when MTSAT-1R starts its service. HiRID is a replacement of S-VISSR to be transmitted to Medium-scale data Utilization Stations (MDUSs). HiRID format is upper compatible with S-VISSR format. High Rate Information transmission (HRIT) will also be introduced during the period of MTSAT-1R operation by a time-shared broadcasting schedule with HiRID and fully introduced to MTSAT-2 service.

The observation and dissemination services of MTSAT-1R are also described in the JPN-WP-05.