

REGIONAL REQUIREMENTS GATHERING FOR SATELLITE DATA ACCESS

WMO-WP-26 reports on the progress made in the gathering of requirements for satellite data access, which was undertaken in different WMO Regions in the context of the Integrated Global Data Dissemination Service (IGDDS).

The RA III/RA IV Satellite Data Requirements Task Team established by WMO, with the support of NOAA and INPE, is maintaining a record of data requirements from Central and South American countries, which has led to inclusion of additional products by NOAA in the GEONET Cast-America broadcast stream.

The RA I Dissemination Expert Group jointly established by WMO and EUMETSAT, has started to review the EUMETCast-Africa dissemination baseline, which has already led EUMETSAT to include additional products into EUMETCast-Africa.

The RA II Pilot Project to develop support to NMHSs in Satellite Data, Products and Training includes "Identification of requirements from RA II Members" as one of its main tasks.

A data requirements gathering process is also starting in RA V.

The attention and support provided by satellite operators to these initiatives help adapting data distribution mechanisms and contents to evolving user needs. They also directly contribute to capacity building by raising regional awareness on the availability of satellite data and products.

Action/Recommendation proposed:

CGMS satellite operators are encouraged to continue their valuable support to IGDDS and RARS.

Regional Requirements Gathering for Satellite Data Access *In the context of the IGDDS*

1. INTRODUCTION

This document reports on progress of Integrated Global Data Dissemination Service (IGDDS) activities with emphasis on the regional data access requirements gathering activities.

There was no meeting of the Regional ATOVS Retransmission Services (RARS) or IGDDS Implementation Groups since CGMS-38, but the following dedicated meetings were held:

- RA II Pilot Project to develop support to NMH Ss in satellite data, products and training, Tokyo, Japan, 21-23 February 2011
- RA III / RA IV Satellite Data Requirements Progress meeting, Miami, FL, United States, 4 April 2010
- RARS progress meeting, Boulder, CO, United States, 4 May 2011
- RA I Dissemination Expert Group, 2nd meeting, Darmstadt, Germany, 28-30 June 2011

2. INTEGRATED GLOBAL DATA DISSEMINATION SERVICE (IGDDS)

The goal of IGDDS is to support the circulation of satellite data and products in the framework of the WMO Information System (WIS) with a view to enhance data access by WMO Members.

The following priorities have been endorsed by the Commission for Basic Systems (CBS):

- Organizing the **formulation of data requirements** (both from a regional approach and a thematic approach) and supporting dialogue between data users and providers;
- Implementing **DVB-S dissemination systems in every region** to offer cost-efficient and integrated access to most satellite data sources;
- Demonstrating the inclusion of all relevant data types in the broadcast services, including **inter-regional data exchange**;
- Supporting the harmonization of future **Direct Broadcast** systems as well;
- Supporting the implementation of complementary data access and distribution via the **Internet**, recognizing that different types of users have different needs;
- Implementing **WIS data standards and conventions**, satellite operators becoming Data Collection or Production Centres (DCPC) within the WIS framework;
- Establishing permanent **information resources** through adequate portals, and active user information including links to appropriate software tools;
- Monitoring** the progress and seeking feedback.

The World Meteorological Congress (Cg-XVI) stressed the need for improved accessibility of satellite data and products, particularly in developing countries, and welcomed the IGDDS priorities recommended by the Commission for Basic Systems (CBS).

Congress welcomed the setting up of regional expert groups in RA I, RA III, RA IV and RA V to review the requirements for satellite data access as well as the Pilot Project in RA II aiming

to enhance accessibility of satellite data in the Region.

3. DATA ACCESS REQUIREMENTS

3.1 Central and South America

The RA III/IV Satellite Data Requirements Task Team, which was established in June 2009 by WMO and has held a Satellite Data Requirements Workshop in Brazil on 1-3 February 2010, had a progress meeting on 4 April 2011 in Miami to follow-up the actions agreed at the first workshop. Two particular objectives identified at the first workshop are still quite actively pursued: (i) to include additional products in GEONETCast-Americas, and (ii) to evaluate possible convergence between the current GEONETCast-Americas and EUMETCast-Americas services.

Products have been added to the GEONETCast dissemination flow. It was agreed to facilitate the review in documenting more precisely the candidate products, an action is underway to evaluate the possible inclusion of Meteosat data in GEONETCast-America upon termination of the EUMETCast-America service.

The requirements are maintained by INPE on a web page accessible from the WMO Space Programme home page (<http://www.wmo.int/sat>) under "Regional activities".

3.2 Africa

The RA I Dissemination Expert Group held its second meeting at EUMETSAT premises in Darmstadt on 21-23 June 2011. EUMETSAT had provided comprehensive information on the EUMETCast dissemination content. Each sub-regional representative had consulted the different NMHSs in his/her sub-region in order to submit a consolidated overview of the status of applications and of the needs for additional products. The dialogue helped identify some shortcomings that are being addressed by EUMETSAT. Such review and updating cycle are expected to be performed every year.

3.3 Asia

The RA II Pilot Project to develop support to NMHSs in Satellite Data, Products and Training includes "Identification of requirements from RA II Members" as one of its main tasks. At the beginning of the second phase, emphasis was put on selecting demonstration products and developing a portal prototype to give more visibility to existing products from RA II satellite operators. Requirements for additional products will be looked at later.

More details on the RA II Pilot Project can be found on the WMO Space Programme home page (<http://www.wmo.int/sat>) under "Regional activities".

3.4 Satellite data requirements for NWP

The 23rd North America-Europe Data Exchange Meeting (NAEDEX) and the 11th Asia-Pacific Satellite Data Exchange and Utilization (APSDEU) held a joint session in Boulder, CO, United States from 2 to 6 May 2011. Both groups are now maintaining their requirements using a common template.

4. OTHER IGDDS ACTIVITIES

Regional ATOVS Retransmission Services (RARS)

The RARS network has progressed with the addition of one station in Natal, Brazil, as of 5 September 2011.

A RARS progress meeting was held in Boulder, CO, United States on 4 May 2011. The meeting discussed the actions needed with respect to the extension of the RARS network to new sounders including METOP/IASI, FY-3/MWTS-MWHS, NPP/CrIS. One action was to define the selection of channels from CrIS that should be processed. This selection (399 channels) is now completed by NOAA. The other actions are still on-going.

5. CONCLUSION

Through their participation in IGDDS and RARS initiatives, CGMS satellite operators and WMO Members contribute to further the integration of satellite data and data management practices, for the benefit of the user community and in accordance with the goals of the WMO Integrated Global Observing Systems (WIGOS) and the WMO Information System (WIS).

Efforts continue in order :

- To develop an updated strategy for satellite data dissemination,
- To consolidate the regional data access requirement gathering process,
- To keep under review the coding issues,
- To ensure recognition of satellite centres as WIS centres (NC or DCPC, see WMO-WP-27) and
- To extend the RARS network for advanced sounders.

Attention shall also be given to the evolution of Direct Broadcast, namely the possible standardization of X-Band dissemination services, and the monitoring and protection of Direct Broadcast frequencies.

CGMS satellite operators are encouraged to continue their valuable support to these actions.