

RADIO FREQUENCY MATTERS

(Submitted by WMO)

Summary and purpose of document

To invite CGMS Members to consider issues related to radio frequency bands allocated to the Meteorological Satellite Service and ITU-R procedures.

ACTION PROPOSED

CGMS is invited to consider the issues and recommend action, as appropriate.

DISCUSSION

Introduction

1. At its last session (March 1999), the CBS Steering Group on Radio Frequency Coordination agreed to draw the attention of CGMS on the following matters.

1 670-1 710 MHz band allocation to the meteorological-satellite (METSAT) service

2. According to the Radio Regulations, the 1 670-1 710 MHz band is allocated on a primary basis to the meteorological-satellite (METSAT) service (space-to-Earth).

3. METSAT service operators have agreed to partition the band 1 675-1 710 MHz into three sub-bands to be used as follows:

1 675-1 690 MHz: main earth stations at fixed locations for reception of raw image data, data collection data and spacecraft telemetry from geostationary meteorological satellites; limited number of main meteorological earth stations (Command and Data Acquisition, CDA) and Primary Data Utilization Stations (PDUS);

1 690-1 698 MHz: user stations for direct readout services from geostationary meteorological satellites; thousands of METSAT earth stations;

1 698-1 710 MHz: user stations for direct readout services and prerecorded image data at main earth stations from non-geostationary meteorological satellites; thousands of METSAT earth stations;

4. This partition is noted as an agreed use of the band in a number of ITU-R Recommendations related to the meteorological-satellite (METSAT) service. However, some METSAT service operators currently use frequencies below 1 690 MHz to provide direct readout services from geostationary meteorological satellites. These direct readout services include GVAR (GOES Variable) from GOES in ITU-R Region 2 and S-VISSR (Stretched-Visible and Infrared Spin Scan Radiometry) from GMS in ITU-R Region 3, which both operate in the range 1 683 - 1 690 MHz. These exceptions to the basic partition have not always facilitated discussions and negotiations within ITU-R with respect to possible sharing with other radiocommunication services, although they are fully compliant with the Radio Regulations.

5. CGMS is invited to review the situation and agree whether:

- ❖ the partition should be maintained without changes, on the understanding that current use below 1 690 MHz for direct readout services from GEO METSAT is expected to be superseded in the future;
- ❖ or the partition should be revised to appropriately reflect the current and planned use of the band.

6. A definite and clear position on this issue from the international group of METSAT service operators, and an appropriate revision of related ITU-R Recommendations (after WRC-2000) is expected to facilitate safeguarding frequency bands allocated to the meteorological-satellite service in the future.

ITU charges for satellite network filings and administrative procedures

7. The Minneapolis Plenipotentiary Conference and ITU Council has implemented cost recovery for satellite network filings received by the Radiocommunication Bureau. A Council Working Group had been established to make recommendations to the Council on:

- (i) the costing methodology to be used along with the general principles for cost recovery;
- (ii) a schedule of charges.

8. The possible exemption of charges for environmental satellites, including meteorological satellites was discussed. CGMS may wish to consider whether a recommendation from METSAT operators on this issue may facilitate the adoption of an exemption for meteorological satellites by the relevant international bodies.