

**JOINT WMO/IOC TECHNICAL COMMISSION FOR OCEANOGRAPHY AND MARINE  
METEOROLOGY (JCOMM)**

*(Submitted by WMO)*

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**Summary and purpose of document**

This document provides an update on the status of the Joint WMO/IOC Technical Commission for Oceanography and Marine Meteorology (JCOMM), including its interactions with satellite operators and CBS concerning oceanographic satellites

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**ACTION PROPOSED**

Note the information given and advise on CGMS/ JCOMM interactions, as appropriate

**Appendix:** Terms of Reference for the JCOMM Satellite Requirements Task Team

## DISCUSSIONS

The third session of the JCOMM management Committee took place in Geneva in March 2004. As part of its review of satellite data requirements and related remote sensing activities, the Committee was presented with a report by the JCOMM Satellite rapporteur, Dr Hiroshi Kawamura. Dr Kawamura presented the satellite requirements, noting the need for continuing updates by the Coastal Oceans Observations Panel and the Oceans Observations Panel for Climate (COOP and OOPC) of GOOS. He also noted the broad range of satellite activities including the IOC strategy, the WMO Space Programme, the IGOS Themes (Ocean, Coastal, Carbon, Water Cycle), the CGMS and so on. Aside from space-based measurements, JCOMM also needed to consider the need for key *in situ* measurements for validating space based measurements. He drew particular attention to the need to consider how best to disseminate satellite data to the GOOS Regional Alliances, and how to distribute data that is not yet widely distributed in real time – such as vector winds and surface waves. The Committee noted that the IGOS Partners Ocean Theme is now being revised under the leadership of Eric Lindstrom, that the Coastal Theme is at the full development stage, and that a Cryosphere Theme proposal is being considered. Under the Coastal Theme there is a question about which agencies will carry out the relevant processing.

The Committee discussed how JCOMM should continue to consider the requirements for future satellite missions, and other matters associated with remote sensing. The Committee decided that JCOMM should form a Task Team, reporting to the JCOMM Management Committee, to take responsibility for overseeing of the space-based remote sensing activities that were essential for JCOMM services and products. This Task Team should provide the primary interface between JCOMM and CGMS, the WMO Space Programme, the IOC Remote Sensing Plan, CEOS, the relevant IGOS Themes, the WMO Consultative Meetings on High-level Policy on Satellite Matters, the COOP and OOPC requirements mechanism, and so on. It should also advise on the distribution and dissemination of satellite data, in consultation with other Programme Areas. The new Task Team should provide JCOMM with a position paper, which would be the basis for JCOMM input to the WMO high level policy meeting in 2005, to CGMS, to IGOS-P and other relevant fora. The Task Team should report to the Management Committee. In the meantime, the Committee called again for detailed specifications on satellite requirements from all JCOMM Programme Areas, including needs related to sea ice, wind waves and maritime safety services. The Terms of Reference and membership for the new Task Team are given in the Annex to this document.

## **Terms of Reference for the JCOMM Satellite Requirements Task Team**

A Task Team should be formed to:

- (i) take responsibility for oversight of the space-based remote sensing activities that are essential for JCOMM services and products;
- (ii) maintain JCOMM satellite remote sensing data requirements based on regular contact with CGMS, the WMO Space Programme, the IOC Remote Sensing Plan, CEOS, the relevant IGOS Themes, the WMO high level policy meetings, the COOP and OOPC, and other appropriate groups;
- (iii) advise on the distribution and dissemination of satellite data and relevant data products, in consultation with other JCOMM Programme Areas;
- (iv) report to the JCOMM Management Committee.

### **MEMBERSHIP**

Membership should include: (i) the CEOS representative on the GSC; (ii) the space representative on COOP; (iii) the space representative on OOPC; (iv) a representative of the IOC remote sensing strategy; (v) the JCOMM satellite rapporteur; (vi) others as appropriate.

The Secretariat for the group should be provided by the WMO Space Programme Office.