

CGMS MEMBERSHIP EXPANSION

(Submitted by WMO)

Summary and purpose of document

To inform CGMS Members of the WMO proposal to expand the CGMS Membership to include as CGMS Members those Research and Development space agencies committed to participate in the space-based component of the Global Observing System.

ACTION PROPOSED

- (1) CGMS Members to note the WMO proposal to expand the CGMS Membership to include as CGMS Members those Research and Development space agencies committed to participate in the space-based component of the Global Observing System.
 - (2) CGMS Members to approve the expansion of its Membership to include ESA, NASA, NASDA and Rosaviakosmos as CGMS Members.
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DISCUSSION

Background

1. WMO WP-15 describes the results from the second session of the Consultative Meetings on High-Level Policy on Satellite Matters (CM-2). One very important result was the expansion of the GOS. In particular, WMO WP-15 notes that the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) of the USA confirmed its commitment to WMO and to the world community to make observations available without restriction. It further indicated that this policy would apply to all relevant missions. Therefore, since data from NASA's Earth observation missions were readily available, its satellites can be considered *de facto* as part of the space-based component of the Global Observing System (GOS). The European Space Agency (ESA) confirmed that it was establishing a dialogue towards the development of information for WMO Members concerning the availability of specific data and products from ESA's EO satellite missions, and in particular from the ENVISAT mission launched in March 2002. ESA further indicated that it would propose to its Programme Board for Earth Observation (PB-EO), to organize jointly a dedicated, specific Announcement of Opportunity (AO) to foster the use of ESA Earth Observation data by the WMO community. The National Space Development Agency of Japan (NASDA) indicated that its future satellite missions including ADEOS II and the GCOM series were candidate systems to contribute to the new R&D constellation for the space-based component of the GOS. Finally, the Russian Aviation and Space Agency (Rosaviakosmos) confirmed that experimental and R&D instruments on board its operational METEOR 3M N1 satellite as well as on its future Ocean series and other missions could be considered as a potential contribution to the space-based component of the GOS.

2. A second and relevant result from CM-2 was the request that a review of WMO Satellite Activities be presented to the WMO Executive Council as described in WMO WP-6. In requesting the review, CM-2 also addressed the need for increased external coordination.

External Coordination

3. CM-2 felt that a means to improve cooperation with both operational meteorological and R&D satellite operators would be through an expanded CGMS.

4. CM-2 felt that CGMS could act as a principal forum for the necessary dialogue between WMO and the satellite operators as well as for discussions between satellite operators, especially for technical matters concerning data formats, work station configuration, commonality of satellite instruments and missions, coherent and coordinated mission planning, data dissemination systems, etc.

5. CM-2 noted that the expansion of the space-based components of the GOS, GAW, GCOS and WHYCOS would be step-wise, i.e., only those R&D satellite system operators that have the potential to contribute to WMO and supported programmes would be considered, and would have the option of following the guidelines.

6. Once criteria were met, then it would be appropriate for WMO to suggest to CGMS Members the inclusion of the new R&D satellite operator. CM-2 noted that WMO had already suggested to CGMS an expansion of its membership to include IOC as a full CGMS member. This WMO proposal was fully supported by CGMS satellite operators. CM-2 noted that inclusion of any satellite operator into the space-based GOS would require the agreement of all CGMS Members.

7. WMO's role within CGMS would be to state the observational and system requirements for WMO and supported programmes as they relate to the expanded space-based components of the GOS, GAW, GCOS and WHYCOS. CGMS satellite operators would make their voluntary commitments to meet the stated observational and system requirements. WMO would, through its Members, strive to provide CGMS satellite operators with operational and pre-operational

evaluations of the benefit and impacts of their satellite systems. WMO would also act as a catalyst to foster direct user interactions with the CGMS satellite operators through available means such as conferences, symposia and workshops.

Activities since CM-2

8. In recognition of the expansion of the space-based component of the GOS and the formal commitments by NASA, ESA, NASDA and Rosaviakosmos as expressed to WMO, WMO suggested and the CGMS Secretariat wrote to the following CGMS Members: NOAA; JMA; and ROSHYDROMET. The CGMS Secretariat letter noted the intention to discuss CGMS Membership expansion at CGMS-XXX. It further proposed that NOAA, EUMETSAT, JMA and ROSHYDROMET bring as part of its delegation a representative from NASA, ESA, NASDA and Rosaviakosmos. The CGMS Secretariat letter also noted that this was already the case for some CGMS Members. The presence of NASA, ESA, NASDA and Rosaviakosmos would be to facilitate the discussion.

Proposal

9. In light of the results from CM-2, the expansion of the space-based component of the GOS and the CGMS Secretariat activities, WMO proposes that NASA, ESA, NASDA and Rosaviakosmos be considered for full membership in CGMS.