

COOPERATION ON RADIO-OCCULTATION GROUND SEGMENT

(Submitted by WMO)

Summary and Purpose of Document

Following recommendation S12 of the Implementation Plan for Evolution of Space and Surface Sub-systems of the GOS approved by CBS, it is suggested to explore opportunities for cooperation among CGMS Members to share ground facilities in support of radio-occultation missions.

It is proposed to establish a Task Force of CGMS Members, involving if appropriate other entities having interest in Radio-Occultation missions, to explore possibilities in this respect and report to CGMS XXXV with proposals for cooperation.

DISCUSSION

1. Following recommendation S12 of the Implementation Plan for Evolution of Space and Surface Sub-systems of the GOS approved by CBS, (See CGMS XXXIV/WMO WP-06, Appendix), it is suggested to explore opportunities for cooperation among CGMS Members to share ground facilities in support of radio-occultation missions.
2. Recommendation S12 states: "The opportunities for a constellation of radio occultation sounders should be explored and operational implementation planned. *International sharing of ground support network systems (necessary for accurate positioning in real time) should be achieved to minimize development and running costs.*"
3. It is proposed to establish a Task Force of CGMS Members, involving if appropriate other entities having interest in Radio-Occultation missions, with the following objectives:
 - to analyze the ground facilities needed for GPS radio-occultation missions;
 - to assess to what extent there are commonalities among these missions and scope for sharing some facilities (e.g. precise time-referencing needed for accurate signal processing);
 - to identify the practical implications of sharing such facilities; and,
 - to report to CGMS-XXXV with proposals for cooperation.