



CGMS-39 NOAA-WP-35
Prepared by NOAA
Agenda Item: H.3
Discussed in Plenary

RECOMMENDATION FOR REVIEW OF CGMS STRUCTURE, MEETINGS, AND PRACTICES

Noting the upcoming 40th anniversary of CGMS in 2012, NOAA-WP-35 proposes CGMS evaluate its structure, meetings and practices to maximize its effectiveness and relations with other coordinating bodies and the global meteorological satellite community.

Action/Recommendation proposed: approve establishment of a Task Force to prepare a report and provide recommendations

RECOMMENDATION FOR REVIEW OF CGMS STRUCTURE, MEETINGS, AND PRACTICES

1 BACKGROUND

The Coordination Group for Meteorological Satellites (CGMS) provides a forum for the exchange of technical information on geostationary and polar-orbiting meteorological satellite systems, such as reporting on current meteorological satellite status and future plans, telecommunication matters, operations, inter-calibration of sensors, processing algorithms, products and their validation, data transmission formats and future data transmission standards.

Since 1972, the Coordination Group for Meteorological Satellites (CGMS) has provided a forum, in which the satellite operators have studied, jointly with the WMO, technical operational aspects of a global satellite network, to ensure maximum efficiency and usefulness through proper coordination in the design of satellites and in the procedures for data acquisition and dissemination. The regular meetings of the group have permitted a gathering and exchange of results during the course of the development of each system and a considerable measure of coordination has been achieved. The current Membership of CGMS is (in alphabetical order):

China Meteorological Administration	-	joined 1989
EUMETSAT	-	joined 1987, CGMS Secretariat
India Meteorological Department	-	joined 1979
IOC/UNESCO	-	joined 2001
Japan Meteorological Agency	-	founder member, 1972
NOAA/NESDIS	-	founder member, 1972
ROSHYDROMET	-	joined 1973
WMO	-	joined 1973
ESA	-	re-joined 2003
NASA	-	joined 2003
JAXA	-	joined 2003
ROSCOSMOS	-	joined 2003

Immediately following the meeting, members of the CGMS members have met to finalize the meeting report and to approve decisions, recommendations and actions.

2 PURPOSE

NOAA, in consultation with CGMS Secretariat, EUMETSAT, and the WMO, recommends a study to review the effectiveness of CGMS meetings and to propose

improvements to CGMS structure, agendas, and documentation to be implemented at the occasion of CGMS 40.

2.1 KEY CONSIDERATIONS

Considering that CGMS has served as an effective forum through which independent agency plans have been informally harmonized to meet common mission objectives and produce certain compatible data products from geostationary meteorological satellites for users around the world:

1. Any restructuring will be performed keeping in mind that CGMS will retain its role as an international mechanism for technical coordination, and an unique source of information on the activities of the different CGMS members and observers.
2. CGMS deliverables and member responsiveness with regard to development of standards, guidelines, baseline architecture, and contingency plans and agreements.
3. One discrete objective is to reorganize the agenda to justify and facilitate the presence of heads of member agencies, at least to the Plenary part of the meeting.

2.2 APPROACH

To establish a Task Force of (4-6 members) that will conduct a review and prepare a report with recommendations on the following topics:

CGMS agenda structure

length of meetings

working paper process and documentation burden

level of participation by members

intercessional activities and use of intercessional meetings

working group structure and Terms of Reference of WGs

CGMS representation/liaison in other bodies (International Working Groups and Coordinating Groups)

level of involvement and engagement of all members and consider barriers to participation

A draft terms of Reference for the Task Force will be presented at CGMS-39.

2.3 TIMELINE



Jan 2012: Task Force conducts review and writes report

Apr 2012: Members review and approve report

May 2012: Final decisions implemented by Secretariat for the 40th Meeting

Note: EUMETSAT as CGMS Secretariat may host a meeting of the TF in the November / December timeframe in Darmstadt.

3 CONCLUSIONS

Recommendations can be implemented on the occasion of CGMS-40 where strategic agency head level participation at Plenary can commemorate the value of CGMS and reinvigorate CGMS as it begins a new decade.