

## **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.