

STATUS AND PROBLEMS OF THE IDCS

This document reports on the status and use of the Meteosat international DCP channels (IDCS). CGMS Members are invited to take note and encouraged to make operational use of the on-line database of IDCS allocations.

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1 STATUS

At the present time around 436 International DCPs are registered worldwide for use with the IDCS, using 9 of the 33 available channels. Channels I6, I7, I12, I13, I14, I15, I16, I18, I20 are regularly in use.

During August 1999, 80 (using I6 – I20) plus 65 (I27 – I33) International DCPs reported through Meteosat, with close to 32,000 messages relayed to the GTS.

In addition, Channels I27 - I33 are currently used to accommodate WMO networks of agrometeorological and hydrometeorological Regional DCPs. It will be recalled that this is a temporary arrangement agreed by CGMS, until such time that these users can be transferred to the MSG Data Collection System.

2 PROBLEM AREAS

Although there is no active monitoring of the IDCS channels, during the last twelve months there appears to have been negligible interference affecting International channels users.

3 CONSOLIDATED LIST OF IDCS ALLOCATIONS

As in previous years there has been a regular exchange of listings of IDCS allocations. CGMS Members will recall that the CGMS Secretariat has implemented a centralized IDCS allocation database on the EUMETSAT Web server (www.eumetsat.de/idcs/ plus user name and password). At the present time the following Members have read/write access: EUMETSAT, Japan and USA. WMO has read-only access for system monitoring purposes.

CGMS Members may now access this database at any time. Whilst co-ordination between Members for allocations will still continue, the CGMS Secretariat is now responsible for keeping the database consistent, up-to-date and for addressing any allocation problems.

CGMS Members are strongly encouraged to make use of this database for all new IDCS allocations or for changes to existing allocations. There is, therefore, *no* further requirement for the regular exchange of this type of information on diskette.

4 DCP DATA ACCESS USING THE MISSION DATA RECEPTION SYSTEM

EUMETSAT now operates a Mission Data Reception System (MDRS) which allows certain DCP data to be accessed via the World Wide Web. This service allows registered DCP operators to view and download their DCP messages from the EUMETSAT Web site. Access to the system is via a

link on the Web site. Operators first have to register so that they can be provided with a user name and password. They then have access to their DCP data via the link from the site.

5 END TO END TEST OF THE IDCS

At CGMS XXVI, it was agreed that there should be further monitoring of the IDCS in 1998. However, in the meantime a set of DCP performance monitoring statistics were developed which, recalling the problems of data availability encountered in earlier end-to-end tests, will allow a more realistic and more long term overview of the operation of the IDCS. These monitoring statistics were developed jointly by EUMETSAT and USA, in close coordination with WMO. The list of proposed monitoring parameters have been sent to Japan for concurrence. It is expected that there will be further discussion of this topic at CGMS XXVII.

6 IDCS USERS GUIDE

Issue 8 of the IDCS Users Guide was published in October 1998 and widely distributed. Copies in PDF format can be downloaded from the EUMETSAT Web site <http://www.eumetsat.de>.