

CGMS-37 WMO-WP-19 v1, 14 October 2009 Prepared by WMO Agenda Item: H.2 Discussed in Plenary

WMO-CGMS WEB PAGES

In response to CGMS actions 35.28

Following the discussions held at CGMS-36 in response to Action 35.28, all CGMS satellite operators have been contacted in May 2009 by WMO and were invited to provide summary information on how to access their satellite data, or links to a website containing such information. This information was inserted in the WMO-CGMS tables on "latest satellite status": http://cgms.wmo.int/Satellites.html

The tables provide a wealth of useful links of great value to the users; however, indications are still missing for some missions. Furthermore the level of information is rather inhomogeneous.

Cooperation of all CGMS satellite operators would be very much appreciated to complete this information. In particular, for operational missions, it would be helpful if the information systematically included links enabling users to get all the necessary details to access full resolution data in near-real time.

Action proposed:

Satellite operators to provide WMO with detailed information, on all the methods available, or planned, for operational data access from each of their satellites contributing to the GOS, via relevant URL of the satellite operator's web page. This detailed information shall include the designation of the dissemination or retrieval services (e.g. direct broadcast, retransmission systems, FTP distribution, GTS product distribution), summary contents, formats used, and detailed technical characteristics.



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1 BACKGROUND

The need for comprehensive information on how to access satellite data has been regularly emphasized by past WMO user enquiries. Insufficient information is perceived as a key limiting factor for the wide and effective use of satellite data, products and services.

At CGMS-35, the following action had been agreed:

Action 35.28: Satellite operators to provide WMO with detailed information, on all the methods available, or planned, for operational data access from each of their satellites contributing to the GOS, via relevant URL of the satellite operator's web page. This detailed information shall include the designation of the dissemination or retrieval services, their summary contents, formats used, and technical characteristics such as:

- For real-time dissemination via the satellite itself (Direct Broadcast): frequency, bandwidth, data rate (uncompressed);
- For Real-time dissemination through multi-mission satellite dissemination system (Advanced Dissemination Methods): satellite name, location, frequency band, area covered, data rate (uncompressed);
- For Real-time dissemination via Internet FTP: address;
- For On-line data retrieval: address;
- URL for precise information on data access modalities

Deadline: May 2008, and to report at CGMS-36

In the discussion that followed at CGMS-36, WMO proposed that information about available or planned data access means, or links to such information, be inserted in the CGMS satellite status web pages (http://cgms.wmo.int/Satellites.html).

2 ACTION TAKEN

All CGMS satellite operators were contacted in May 2009 by WMO, in consultation with CGMS Secretariat. Based on the input received from satellite operators, a column was inserted in the tables, as can be seen in the example in the Appendix. At present, the tables provide a wealth of useful links of great value to the users; however, indications are still missing for some missions. Furthermore the level of information is rather inhomogeneous.

The pages are currently providing links to the following types of information:

- User guides for direct readout;
- Catalogue containing product description and near-real time access means;
- Project web sites with FTP retrieval capability for recent data;
- Archives:
- CGMS document describing planned dissemination concept;
- Website providing near-real time GIF imagery.
- Website providing near-real time products.



3 CONCLUSIONS

Cooperation of all CGMS satellite operators would be very much appreciated to complete this information. In particular, for operational missions, it would be helpful to systematically provide a link enabling users to find all the necessary details to access full resolution data in near-real time. An action is thus proposed along the lines of former Action 35.28.



APPENDIX

