

## **EMC**

The focus of activity during the year has been on the threat to HF radio reception from PLA devices. The RSGB has been arguing for a degree of sanity on these devices, which threaten HF radio reception in the urban and semi-urban environment.

In the connection meetings have been held with Ofcom (at COO level) and BIS to express our concerns, and copies of all relevant correspondence is available on the RSGB website (EMC pages), together with a detailed RSGB position statement.

A meeting is scheduled with the EC in mid-December to continue to press the arguments.

But the political forces are amassed against us. There is huge pressure from the EC to allow a very significant relaxation in permitted emission levels from PLA devices. Regrettably the work done in CISPR/I/PLT, has allowed a draft standard to be developed which, although subsequently rejected by CISPR, is now forming the basis of the current standards discussions in CENELEC.

The draft standard proposes continued notching of the HF amateur bands, but only dynamic notching of most of the rest of the spectrum. It also proposes a form of dynamic power control. Whilst these techniques might afford a degree of mitigation in some cases, the fact remains that PLA devices will be free to continue to emit at current levels (or even slightly higher) when the mitigating technologies are not deployed. The cynic might argue that these technologies are being included in the draft standard to allow PLA devices to pass a reasonable emission test in the laboratory, but in-situ circumstances (with other devices and noise evident on the mains circuits) may be very different. This will be a bad standard, and is bad news for users of the HF spectrum.

Budget cuts in Ofcom are reported as 170 people out of some 850. Engineering staff will reduce from 120 to 80, which is bad news (and surprising given the issues surrounding the Olympics). BIS also has significant cuts, although I do not as yet have the numbers. Again engineering seems likely to be hit badly.

The EMC website has gone live, with a few early teething issues, now resolved. The site includes a survey form for those suffering from interference. We shall be analyzing the first 100 responses shortly, but an early peek shows that very few of those reporting any form of interference have actually complained to Ofcom. The site also includes a no-holds-barred considered response from RSGB to the discussions with Ofcom and BIS, together with copies of all correspondence. General commentary has been favourable, even from RSGB's most ardent UKQRM critics.

RSGB was represented at EMCUK exhibition at Newbury in October. The stand attracted significant interest and successfully raised the profile of RSGB as a force in EMC

John Pink manned a stand at the Lincoln Hamfest, raising a number of EMC issues and answering members' questions.

John Pink will be representing me at the Spectrum forum, and will be able to amplify any of the above and in particular the progress in CENELEC on the PLA standard..

**Don Beattie, G3BJ**