

Band Plan Changes

The IARU Region-1 Sun City Conference output included band plan modifications in

HF: (See HF Managers report)

- 7MHz: narrowband,
- 28MHz: FM/Repeaters
- NB several countries have already updated their HF band plans

VHF:

- 50MHz: major overhaul of 50.0-50.5MHz narrowband section
- 70MHz: revisions in lower portion of the band
- 145MHz: designation of additional repeater channels

Microwave:

- 23cm, 134GHz

As RSGB Lead Delegate, consultations undertaken before and after the Conference included notices in GB2RS and Radcom as well as Yahoo/Southgate. Specifically:-

50MHz

Liaison with UKSMG, ETCC, RAYNET & VHF Manager beforehand regarding background data, tactics and proposals for the Sun City 6m Working Group (esp the new 100kHz structure and the positioning of the new synchronised beacon network). Such homework proved invaluable

Use of the UKSMG Website/Forum for consultation/comments on the result have suggested refinements to terminology for the UK implementation (eg calling vs centre of activity).

Pleased to see general UKSMG support for result and an explanatory video of the new band plan. Discussions have focussed on implementation of 1st Jan 2012 for operating changes and a longer transition period for beacons.

Further work foreseen and discussions started to implement the new beacon network and UK realignment of higher part of band plan (for 6m repeaters, RAYNET etc) to IARU recommendations. Hopefully a full plan for the Synchronised Beacons can be rapidly developed in good time for endorsement at the next Vienna Interim meeting.

70MHz: There is no 4m user group as such, but full details posted onto 70MHz.org website and forum. Whilst re-planning this band was considered by RSGB to be premature at Sun City, no comments have since been received on the resultant changes, so implementation likely to proceed as recommended in the DX sections.

145MHz: The designation of additional channels for repeaters at the expense of simplex was opposed by RSGB prior to and at the Conference. It was only very narrowly approved in the C5 VHF/Microwave committee. This has generated a fair number of comments, few of which have been favourable. The Board, ETCC etc were informed of the potentially controversial conference outcome (which was driven by those countries with less capacity in 70cm repeater allocations). ETCC also ran a consultation. As no DX activity is affected, a UK approach can potentially be adopted.

23cm: IARU recommendations provide the template for future use. ETCC and BATC are keen to make progress, despite PU issues. New band plan will be kept under review.

134GHz: The RSGB proposal and result was well aligned with UKuG activity. A specific new band plan tab is now proposed to document this and support activity expansion