

Microwave Managers Report Nov-2013

The Microwave Manager is responsible for amateur bands at 23cm and above and also acts as liaison with Ofcom on Beacon applications. Current duties also include some IARU/international matters.

Highlights

- Successful inputs for 2.3/3.4GHz Spectrum Release activity
- Licensing of 2.3GHz Beacons, 3.4GHz DATV
- Progress at IARU Vienna Interim Meeting for most VHF/Microwave matters

Lowlights

- Slow progress on Beacon NoVs
- Significant number of CEPT and WRC-15 related pressures on microwave bands
- New concerns at 5, 10 and 77GHz

Actions Arising (from 2012 Forum Minutes)

[Spectrum Release]

Action: Murray to put note in 2.3 GHz band plan to indicate that band is subject to regulatory change.

Action : Murray to publish update in Feb RadCom, noting that Sweden has lost access to 2.3 GHz.

Action: Murray to continue pressure and support to Ofcom on Primary User issues

Actions Complete: Spectrum Release background article was published in January RadCom. Band plans updated with warning notes. Further updates occurred in RadCom and major engagement with Ofcom and amateur stakeholders (inc UKuG, BATC-ATV tests) resulted in a well-researched Ofcom consultation document and 110 responses to it

Action: Murray to discuss the synchronisation of 6m beacons with Trevor (This is to be followed up by the new VHF manager)

Action Complete: Result was two papers presented/approved at Vienna for Beacon MGM and 6m Scheme spacing/timing (Further work envisaged in 2014 for IARU-R1 Conference)

- my thanks to new VHF Manager John Regnault G4SWX for his hard work on both papers

General Activity

- Ofcom Responses included Commonwealth Games Spectrum, 2.4GHz Exemption, 24 GHz Car Radar Regs Update, and 2.3/3.4GHz Spectrum Release and support for RSGB WRC-18 Agenda paper
- Also supported IARU inputs to FM52 on 2.3GHz, and SE24 on SRDs from 13.56MHz to 79GHz as well as to IARU WRC-15 team on Amateur Handbook, 78GHz Radar. Also active in the Region-1 PRC team
- Coordination of RSGB band plan updates

Microwave Bands Review

1.3GHz:

It was encouraging to see new 23cm DD and DATV repeaters based on the 'new' RSGB band plan. Currently monitoring Glonass/Galileo and WRC-15 Wireless Broadband issues.

2.3GHz / 3.4GHz:

Spectrum Release caused a major effort. RSGB with assistance from UKuG and BATC submitted a variety of data to Ofcom and other activity included testing of ATV equipment and repeaters by Ofcom Baldock staff

The Ofcom Amateur consultation ran during June-July 2013:

Inputs from the RSGB Litmus Test and other forums helped both a coordinated central response and direct inputs from others – 110 responses submitted to Ofcom in total

In Sept-2013 responsibility for managing the release programme moved from MoD to Ofcom. Ofcom currently have a new call for inputs (mainly aimed at commercial users) though we have a concern. Timetable for the auction appears to have slipped further from Summer 2014 to FY 2015/6

Encouraged by new 2.3GHz Beacons, and DATV clearances in 3400-3410 retained section

Concerned by CEPT LTE-TDD Band plan including the lower 3400-3410 MHz section

Work in SE24 has contributed to solutions for MBANS etc at 2.4GHz (medical networks)

5.7GHz:

IARU-R1 has been an active member of the CEPT SE24 WI-39 drafting group on Wireless Industrial Automation so that concerns re 5760/5840MHz amateur usage fully considered – Draft ECC Report 206 now out for consultation

Chief concern now is that the new EU 5GHz Mandate expands Wi-Fi to entire band inc the 5760/5840 area on a Co-Primary basis (not as SRDs) linked to the WRC-15 agenda

10GHz:

This is affected by a new MoD moratorium in 10-10.125 GHz used by ATV;
- and a couple of WRC-15 agenda items

24GHz:

Car Radar SRR regs successfully updated so that these will now eventually migrate out of the Primary band (also has a WRC15 item, though it lacks much support)

77GHz:

Car radars may be permitted for fixed and helicopter use in 76-79GHz (in SE24). WRC-15 also has Agenda Item 1.18 item to make related radars a Primary User in the exclusive 78GHz Primary amateur allocation. Pleasing to see new UK distance records and high power EME trials

Note – also pleasing to see ARRL and IARU-R2 adopting elements from Region-1 VHF/Microwave band plans all the way to 248GHz

IARU Vienna – Interim Meeting April 2013

VHF/Microwave papers presented by RSGB were:-

- VIE13_C5_02: 70MHz Band Plan
- VIE13_C5_03: Increased Amateur-Satellite Service 144MHz Usage
- VIE13_C5_04: Band Plan Modernisation & Updates
- VIE13_C5_05: Recommendations for DATV Transmission
- VIE13_C5_31: Amendment to IARU Region-1 ATV Contest Date
- VIE13_C5_32: 2400MHz Amateur Satellites (*Info paper*)
- VIE13_C5_33: Beacons – MGM Alignment
- VIE13_C5_34: 50 MHz Synchronised Beacons

IARU-R1 - PRC (Political Relations Committee)

Attended three EU Workshop sessions on Spectrum Demand. The Amateur Service is not recognised by the EU RSP categories, but data from the Amsat community in particular did have some impact in the final report. Need to take care with similar work in the UK.

IARU-FSC (Bands above 148MHz)

Internal Report completed and reviewed by the AC. Update process recently commissioned and group now to be on a permanent basis to assist coordination. RSGB well placed.

Beacons/NoVs

During the past 12 months, only two beacons applications have been fully approved and NoV issued. However it was particularly encouraging that both were in bands subject to the MoD/Ofcom Spectrum Release process.

GB3ZME	2320.870	Telford	New Beacon	Approved Apr-2013
GB3BSS	2320.925	Stroud	New Beacon	Approved May-2013

Other beacons inc the long-awaited 70cm changes are at various stages of the paperwork/NoV process. It was disappointing that little progress could be made to accelerate these for most of the year, although a way forward with Ofcom has been recently discussed.

In a joint exercise with ETCC, Ofcom has also been made aware of systems that are not on up-to-date Ofcom NoV paperwork or are potentially defunct. Work to resolve this is expected to proceed in 2014 and was recently highlighted by Ofcom in their presentation at the RSGB Convention.

The Vienna meeting was useful in revising parameters for Beacon-MGM and to establish the spacing/keying the new 6m synchronised beacons. Further work on these will occur for the 2014 Region-1 Conference.

Murray Niman G6JYB, Oct-2013