

UKSMG Group Report

UKSMG continues to be a major source of 50MHz related information and remains the largest 50MHz related group in the world.

While UKSMG is keen to promote activity on 50MHz in whatever form, the UKSMG Committee is very concerned about two currently proposed uses for parts of the 50MHz band.

Firstly, the use of digital television within the upper portion of the band. Contrary to popular belief amongst the ATV community this is not an RF wilderness devoid of any activity as a brief look at the UK and IARU band-plans will show. Quite apart from the obvious likelihood of interference to the UK repeater network, without very sharp filtering there is considerable potential for spillage well below the nominal 50.500 cut-off frequency and into the weak-signal part of the band. During a major sporadic-E opening this could cause problems across much of Europe. UKSMG is very concerned about this proposal and indeed about the adoption any mode that has the capacity to raise the general noise floor and thereby interfere with weak-signal working.

Secondly, the East Anglian Amateur Radio Observatory (EAARO) Group are investigating the possibility of a high power radar type system within or close to the 50MHz band for scientific research. Whilst UKSMG have no issue with the principle of their operation we remain concerned about the effects on the noise floor in-band and the potential for mutual interference with other band users. Currently insufficient information is available to make a useful assessment of the potential problems but frequency, pulse length and pulse repetition frequency will all have a bearing on the result.

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