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There were a number of highlights and success at 50MHz for radio amateurs at the ITU World Radiocommunication Conference 2019.

WRC-19, the largest ever, concluded in Sharm el Sheikh, Egypt, on 22 November after a month of intensive and often difficult considerations to achieve the final consensus and outcomes for both existing and future agenda items. The headline success was for 50MHz across IARU Region-1, but there are quite a number of other items where amateur radio fared well. Readers of the RSGB WRC-19 special focus blog (www.rsgb.org/wrc-19) were kept well updated as the events unfurled.

Achieving consensus with over 3300 delegates from 144 nations present is no mean feat and is needed so that on the last day the Provisional Final Acts can be signed. These have the legal status of an international treaty that update the ITU Radio Regulations for frequency allocations, satellite procedures and many other regulatory aspects when they formally come into effect in January 2021.

Murray Niman, G6JYB Spectrum Chair attended as part of the Ofcom-led 60 strong UK delegation. Overall, 14 amateurs were embedded in other national delegations or attended under the official IARU banner – with the latter very active in behind the scenes coordination and conversations.

The October edition of *RadCom* had extensive background on several agenda items of interest or concern including 50MHz, 144MHz concerns,

23cm, higher microwave bands and Wireless Power.

The overall outcome is a testament to the hard work, team effort and expertise – as well as the resources from IARU Member Societies to fund this level of representation for a whole month and the years of preceding preparation since 2015. In the case of Wireless Power it has also seen parallel EMC-led efforts in other international meetings, such as CISPR, on which Dr Martin Sach, G8KDF will be focussing even more (see EMC Chair change on page 7).

As mentioned, the top headline item was that the conference has approved an allocation in the 50MHz band for amateurs in Region 1. (Agenda Item AI-1.1). Under the skilful guidance of Chairman Dale Hughes, VK1DSH the final result is a careful balance between enthusiastic supporters and more conservative nations. The overall summary for Agenda Items (AI) is

AI-1.1: 50MHz for Region-1 has been a remarkably successful result considering the diverse position and challenges faced over the years in preparatory studies. The solution agreed includes a default secondary allocation of 50-52MHz across the region with footnotes that include 44 named countries having part or full primary status within the 50-54MHz range. Fuller detail of this is on the RSGB website.

AI-1.7: Small Satellites which are increasingly commercial have been granted access to the space operations bands at 137/149MHz away from amateur allocations. The RSGB closely supported Ofcom in achieving a good outcome for what proved to be a remarkably difficult item at the conference

AI-1.13: High frequency 5G Mobile will not change our status in our 47GHz allocation that had been in scope; and other masks should protect amateur and critical passive services at 24GHz and just below.

AI-1.15: 275-450GHz – Our experimental access has been preserved via ITU footnote 5.565.

AI-1.16: 5 GHz Wi-Fi will see most expansion below amateur radio in the 5150-5250MHz band, reducing its impact on our 5725-5850MHz range.

AI-8: Footnote changes – saw some negative moves but there was a welcome an upgrade in Brazil and few other South American countries to Primary status in 430MHz for the amateur service on a national basis. Iran withdrew its name from the 136kHz restrictions.

AI-9.1.6: Wireless Power – No change to the Radio Regulations (ie no new ISM band), and a welcome guidance note in the minutes to guide further studies on spurious emissions.

AI-10 Future Agenda includes Galileo: Whilst unwelcome, a WRC-23 study item that will review 1240-1300MHz (23cm) amateur usage and Galileo receiver protection was made more limited in scope and closer to ongoing work in CEPT.

Our WRC-19 special focus pages include photos, 50MHz maps and detail, and the new 23cms study item and can be found at www.rsgb.org/wrc-19.

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The main conference hall that was capable of holding over 3000 delegates.