

Recognition of Iridium mobile satellite system as a GMDSS service provider

Submitted by IHB

SUMMARY

Executive Summary: This document provides details on actions undertaken by IMSO in preparation for the recognition of a new mobile satellite communications system for the GMDSS, which are relevant to WWNWS-SC

Action to be taken: Paragraph 2.

Related documents: NCSR 1/12/1 dated 24 April 2014

1. See attached document.
2. The Sub-Committee is invited to note the information provided and take action as appropriate.

SUB-COMMITTEE ON NAVIGATION,
COMMUNICATIONS AND SEARCH AND
RESCUE
1st session
Agenda item 12

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**DEVELOPMENTS IN MARITIME RADIOCOMMUNICATION SYSTEMS
AND TECHNOLOGY**

Recognition of Iridium mobile satellite system as a GMDSS service provider

Submitted by the International Mobile Satellite Organization (IMSO)

SUMMARY

Executive summary: This document provides information on actions undertaken by IMSO in preparation for the recognition of a new mobile satellite communications system for the GMDSS

Strategic direction: 5.2

High-level action: 5.2.5

Planned output: 5.2.5.3

Action to be taken: Paragraph 17

Related documents: MSC 92/9/2; resolution A.1001(25); MSC.1/Circ.1414 and NCSR 1/12

Introduction

1 At its ninety-second session, held in May 2013, the Maritime Safety Committee noted the information provided by IMSO on actions undertaken by IMSO in preparation for the assessment of the capabilities, recognition and oversight of new mobile satellite communication systems for the GMDSS. Since then, the United States has submitted document NCSR 1/12 "Recognition of Iridium mobile satellite system as a GMDSS service provider", which inter alia, invites the Sub-Committee to "*instruct the Secretariat to invite IMSO to conduct a technical and operational assessment, and to seek such clarifications or additional information from the applicant as may be necessary for IMSO to perform this evaluation, as set out in resolution A.1001(25), as well as MSC.1.Circ.1414; and to provide its evaluation to the Sub-Committee at its next Session*".

2 This document provides an update to the information provided by IMSO to MSC 92, in particular, in relation to the establishment of an IMSO Expert/Consultancy Programme as anticipated by the IMSO Advisory Committee at its Thirteenth Session.

Legal matters: IMSO Convention

3 Following adoption of resolution A.1001(25) on criteria for the provision of mobile satellite communication systems in the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS), and the decision of the Committee, at its eighty-second session, that the oversight of future satellite providers in the GMDSS should be undertaken by the International Mobile Satellite Organization, the IMSO Assembly, at its twentieth session in September/October 2008, adopted amendments to the IMSO Convention to expand the oversight of GMDSS services to any new satellite service provider recognized by the Committee. The IMSO Assembly also decided that the amendments to the Convention shall enter into force on the basis of provisional application with effect from 6 October 2008.

Administrative matters: Public Services Agreements

4 Any recognized provider of maritime mobile satellite communications services for use in the GMDSS shall be subject to oversight by IMSO according to the rules and arrangements set out in the Public Services Agreement (PSA) to be concluded between the Service Provider and IMSO (resolution A.1001(25), annex, section 2.4, refers).

5 To that end, the IMSO Assembly, at its Twentieth Session, adopted the Reference Public Service Agreement that should be executed between IMSO and each new GMDSS provider recognized by the Committee, the full text of which is available at www.imso.org (Basic Documents).

6 It should be noted that a Public Services Agreement was executed between IMSO and Inmarsat in April 1999, following its restructuring and privatization. In accordance with article 18 thereof, that Agreement may be terminated inter alia when IMO determines that the GMDSS requirements are being satisfied by other satellite system operators.

7 At such time, it is expected that a new Public Services Agreement would be executed between IMSO and Inmarsat, based on the approved Reference Public Services Agreement, thereby ensuring equal and non-discriminatory conditions for each recognized mobile satellite communications provider operating in the GMDSS.

Financial matters

8 As set out in article 13 of the IMSO Convention, IMSO's costs are paid by the GMDSS providers and, in relation to LRIT, by entities with which IMSO has entered into Services Agreements and/or contracts, and are apportioned between them according to the Business Plan and Budget Arrangements approved by the IMSO Assembly. IMSO has established accounting systems and procedures that allow complete financial separation of the different business streams (GMDSS and LRIT).

9 According to the Revised Budget Arrangements adopted by the IMSO Assembly at its twenty-second session in June 2012, the costs of IMSO's activities relating to GMDSS are paid on an annual basis by the GMDSS provider(s). These costs shall be apportioned between all providers of satellite communications services for the GMDSS that are subject to oversight by IMSO and for which a Public Services Agreement is in force.

10 However, the apportionment criteria have not yet been established until details of any new provider is known, and will be subject to decision by the IMSO Assembly. The IMSO Business Plan will, therefore, be revised to accommodate any future new GMDSS provider recognized by the Committee, to define the apportionment criteria of costs between those providers.

11 In anticipation of any work which the IMSO Directorate may need to undertake in the process of recognition of new GMDSS providers, the IMSO Assembly has established specific measures, in the form of daily fees plus actual expenses, to finance any GMDSS work not related to an existing GMDSS provider which is subject to IMSO oversight. This will apply in case IMSO is requested to undertake any work in relation to Iridium as requested in document NCSR.1/12.

12 It is anticipated that, prior to carrying out any work, IMSO would negotiate with any satellite service provider which IMSO is required to evaluate, an advance payment to cover the costs of such an evaluation. These costs may include expert/consultancy fees, travel and other administrative costs which IMSO may incur during the evaluation process.

Operational matters: Expert/Consultancy Programme

13 The evaluation of the information of a specific maritime mobile satellite system offered for use in the GMDSS should be based on the criteria contained in resolution A.1001(25), as well as MSC.1/Circ.1414. These include the verification of specific technical and operational requirements for both the space segment and earth stations, as well as other additional capabilities. This verification may require collection of on-the-field data, as well as different tests (terminals, transmission, etc.) that may also involve the collaboration of MRCCs and/or official providers of Maritime Safety Information such of Hydrographic or Meteorological offices. It is noted that in document NCSR.1/12, the United States invites the Sub-Committee to "*invite IHO and WMO to provide advice in relation to the shore-to-ship broadcasting of Maritime Safety Information*".

14 IMSO's work in relation to the evaluation exercise may require additional IMSO resources, and this was anticipated by the IMSO Advisory Committee at its thirteenth session which agreed that an Independent Group of Experts should be established should this be necessary at the appropriate time, to "*verify and evaluate information provided concerning a specific maritime mobile satellite system offered for use in the GMDSS, in relation to the relevant requirements and recommendations of IMO, ITU and IMSO, and to advise the IMSO Director General accordingly*".

15 Furthermore, the IMSO Assembly decided to introduce restrictions on the IMSO budget which apply from 2014 which limits the resources available "in house". These decisions were based on a number of assumptions including the conclusion of the IMSO Advisory Committee that there is no immediate likelihood of a new GMDSS provider being recognized by IMO until 2015 at the earliest.

16 The IMSO Director General has established an IMSO Expert/Consultancy Programme, through the collaboration of an Independent Group of Experts as defined in paragraph 14, provided also that all funding and contractual arrangements to undertake this work is in place, as indicated in paragraphs 11 and 12. Although a number of such experts/consultants have already individually registered, no proposals for Government secondments have been received. Details of the programme can be found at www.imso.org.

Action requested of the Sub-Committee

17 IMSO invites the Sub-Committee to note the updated information provided in this document when considering document NCSR.1/12 on recognition of the Iridium mobile-satellite system, and, in particular, that:

- .1 IMSO has taken legal, administrative, financial and operational measures that would enable IMSO to undertake the assessment and subsequent oversight of any new mobile satellite communication system for the GMDSS that is recognized by the Committee; and
 - .2 should the Sub-Committee decide to invite IMSO to conduct a technical and operational assessment and provide its evaluation for consideration by the second session of the Sub-Committee, as indicated in paragraph 3.2 of document NCSR.1/12, IMSO would be ready and able to do so, subject to the financial and operational matters discussed in this document.
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