

Recognition of Iridium mobile satellite system as a GMDSS service provider

Submitted by IHB

SUMMARY

Executive Summary: This document provides additional details of the application for consideration of Iridium Satellite LLC to become a Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS) mobile satellite services provider, which are relevant to WWNWS-SC

Action to be taken: Paragraph 2.

Related documents: MSC 94/9/4 dated 12 September 2014

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

MARITIME SAFETY COMMITTEE
94th session
Agenda item 9

MSC 94/9/4
12 September 2014
Original: ENGLISH

NAVIGATION, COMMUNICATIONS, SEARCH AND RESCUE

Recognition of Iridium mobile-satellite system as a GMDSS service provider

Submitted by the United Kingdom and the United States

SUMMARY

Executive summary: This document proposes that the International Mobile Satellite Organization (IMSO) perform the analysis on the application to recognize and use the Iridium mobile satellite system in the GMDSS

Strategic direction: 5.2

High-level action: 5.2.5

Planned output: 5.2.5.3

Action to be taken: Paragraph 7

Related documents: MSC 94/9 and NSCR 1/28

Introduction

1 The report of the first session of the NSCR Sub-Committee (NSCR 1) invites the Committee to consider how to carry out the technical review of Iridium's application for its mobile-satellite system to be recognized and used in the GMDSS. The United Kingdom and the United States support the International Mobile Satellite Organization (IMSO) as the appropriate body to carry out this review.

Discussion

2 NSCR 1 requested in MSC 94/9, paragraph 2.9, that the Committee decide to either convene an experts group through the IMO Secretariat, or to request that an independent body perform the required analysis necessary to assess the application for Iridium's mobile satellite system to be recognized and used in GMDSS.

3 The United Kingdom and the United States support the designation of IMSO as the appropriate body to carry out this review. IMSO has stated in submissions MSC 92/9/3 and NSCR 1/12/1 its readiness and ability to carry out the technical review, noting in its most recent submission that it has taken the requisite actions to fulfil this task effectively.

4 In particular, IMSO has already taken measures to compile a panel of experts that would carry out the review. The IMSO Assembly has also already established and made clear in their submissions the methodology of financing the review by an Independent Group of Experts. IMSO would not need to establish additional financial and administrative mechanisms for a new experts group.

5 Furthermore, if the Committee decided to recognize the Iridium mobile satellite system, IMSO would need to establish a Public Services Agreement (PSA) in order to oversee GMDSS services provided by any new service provider recognized by the Committee. If a different group carried out the initial technical review of the application, the knowledge gained through that review process will not be available to IMSO in its mandated role in overseeing GMDSS service providers. Consequently, it would need to perform a similar level of analysis which was already performed by the other experts group, to understand the system in full to fulfil the PSA.

6 As IMSO is technically, administratively and financially prepared to perform the assessment, is independent of the IMO, and because potentially involving multiple experts groups would result in a delayed and redundant analysis of the system, the United Kingdom and the United States propose that the Committee request IMSO's review of the application to recognize and use Iridium's mobile satellite system in the GMDSS.

Action requested of the Committee

7 The Committee is invited to consider the proposal herein and take action as appropriate.
