



Our ref.: 17235/2018/OBS/WIS/SATCOM 2018

25 June 2018

Annex: 1

Subject: Announcement of the second meeting of the International Forum of Users of Satellite Data Telecommunication Systems (SATCOM), Amsterdam, the Netherlands, 9-11 October 2018

Action required: To distribute the announcement to interested parties, and to confirm participation of experts through the indicated website **not later than 5 September 2018**

Dear Sir/Madam,

The World Meteorological Organization (WMO), together with the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO are organizing the second meeting of the International Forum of Users of Satellite Data Telecommunication Systems (SATCOM) in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, at the [RAI Amsterdam Convention Centre](#) from 9 to 11 October 2018. This meeting will be held in conjunction with the 2018 WMO Technical Conference on Meteorological and Environmental Instruments and Methods of Observation (TECO-2018), seventeenth session of the Commission for Instruments and Methods of Observation (CIMO-17) also planned at the same venue during the same period. Both events are held at the kind invitation of the Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute (KNMI), and will take place in conjunction with the Meteorological Technology World Expo 2018 (9-11 October 2018), which is being independently organized by UKi Media and Events Ltd, and with the sixteenth session of the Argos Joint Tariff Agreement Executive Committee meeting (JTA-EC-16, 12-13 October 2018).

The SATCOM Forum was established by the Seventeenth World Meteorological Congress (Geneva, Switzerland, 25 May – 12 June 2015) through Resolution 31 (Cg-17), which approved CBS Recommendation 9 (CBS-Ext.(2014)). The Terms of Reference of the SATCOM Forum are provided in the Annex.

The SATCOM Forum is an entirely self-funded body jointly sponsored by the WMO and the IOC of UNESCO, covering a wide user base, the purpose of which is to address remote data communication requirements for automatic environmental observing systems coordinated through both Organizations.

The main goals are to:

- (a) Ensure proper coordination amongst the users of satellite data telecommunication systems and to represent their collective interests in working with the satellite telecommunication service providers in order to advance the awareness and understanding of user requirements;

To: Permanent Representatives (or Directors of Meteorological or Hydrometeorological Services) of Members of WMO

cc: Hydrological Advisers to Permanent Representatives
Presidents of technical commissions
Presidents of regional associations
IOC/UNESCO Executive Director

- (b) Advance the awareness and understanding of available and planned capabilities;
- (c) Facilitate adoption of interoperability and quality standards and principles;
- (d) Provide guidance to best meet user needs of each considered application.

The SATCOM Forum is expected to recommend measures for the reduction of satellite data telecommunication costs for the transmission of observations from observational platforms to data processing centres on land, and to better address user requirements for high temporal and vertical resolution data, improved timeliness and related communication support services.

Participation at the SATCOM Forum is open to all experts from the WMO and IOC communities. Representatives from other environmental user groups and SATCOM service providers will also be invited to deliver relevant information to the Forum.

The purpose of this letter is to announce the Forum and to invite your representative experts to confirm their participation through self-registration using the website below not later than **5 September 2018**. The Forum also welcomes presentations or poster contributions by completing the Poster Registration form online at <https://wiswiki.wmo.int/Satcom2018-Poster>.

Please note that SATCOM being an entirely self-funded body per its Terms of Reference (Annex), no financial support will be available from WMO or IOC to the participants.

More detailed information about the event will be posted on the website of the event <https://wiswiki.wmo.int/Satcom2018> as it becomes available.

I would be grateful if you could make this announcement widely known within your respective Service and beyond.

Yours faithfully,



(W. Zhang)
for the Secretary-General

Annex to Recommendation 9 (CBS-Ext.(2014))

**TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR A WMO-IOC INTERNATIONAL FORUM OF USERS OF
SATELLITE DATA TELECOMMUNICATION SYSTEMS**

Ref.: 17235/2018-17 OBS-WIS

The International Forum of Users of Satellite Data Telecommunication Systems (SATCOM) is an entirely self-funded body jointly sponsored by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO, of the United Nations in the view to address the requirements of these two organizations for the timely collection via satellite of environmental data from observing platforms.

The forum shall:

- (a) Provide coordination amongst the users of satellite data telecommunication systems (SDTS) and represent their collective interests in working with the satellite telecommunication service providers and the industry in order to advance the awareness and understanding of the user requirements;
- (b) Advance the awareness and understanding of available and planned capabilities;
- (c) Facilitate adoption of interoperability and quality standards and principles as needed;
- (d) Investigate and propose as needed cooperative tariff negotiation mechanisms on the use of satellite data telecommunication systems;
- (e) Facilitate the preparation of technical advice and guidance that will optimize STDS choices for each considered application;
- (f) Report to the executive bodies of WMO and IOC through the Commission for Basic Systems (CBS), the Joint WMO-IOC Technical Commission for Oceanography and Marine Meteorology (JCOMM), and the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS) Steering Committee respectively.

Membership is open to all representatives of the co-sponsors stakeholders, that is:

Representatives of the co-sponsoring Organizations Members/Member States,

Representative of a User Group,

SATCOM system providers,

Representatives of the satellite equipment manufacturers.
