



World Meteorological Organization
Organisation météorologique mondiale

Secrétariat

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Our ref.: OBS/OSD/MAR/SATCOMFORUM

GENEVA, 18 July 2013

Subject: Ad hoc International Forum of Users of Satellite Data Telecommunication Systems
(Satcom Forum), Paris, France, 3-4 October 2013

Dear Sir/Madam,

You will recall that the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) at its Sixteenth Congress (Cg-XVI, Geneva, Switzerland, 16 May–3 June 2011) supported the establishment of an International Forum of Users of Satellite Data Telecommunication Systems (Satcom Forum) covering a wide user base, and to address remote data communication requirements - including tariff negotiations as needed - for automatic environment observing systems coordinated through WMO and partner organizations such as the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO.

The Satcom Forum is meant to be an entirely self-funded body jointly sponsored by WMO and the IOC with the view to address the requirements of these two Organizations for the timely collection of environment data from observing platforms.

The main goals are: (i) to 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; (ii) to advance the awareness and understanding of available and planned capabilities; (iii) to facilitate adoption of interoperability and quality standards and principles; and (iv) to provide guidance to best meet user needs of each considered application. The forum is expected to allow 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, and improved timelines.

To: Permanent Representatives (or Directors of Meteorological or Hydrometeorological Services) of Members of WMO (PR-6710)

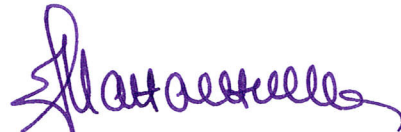
cc: President CBS)
Chair, CBS OPAG ISS) (for information)
Co-presidents, JCOMM)
Albert Fischer, Head, Ocean Observations and Services section, IOC)

I am pleased to announce that at the kind invitation of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC), an ad hoc Satcom Forum meeting will take place at the IOC of UNESCO headquarters in Paris, France, from 3 to 4 October 2013. In particular, this meeting shall review available technologies, share experiences, and address the user requirements with the view to document capabilities, and identify strengths and weaknesses of the different satellite data telecommunication systems to address the requirements of specific uses related to the collection of observations from remote observing platforms.

The meeting will also review the operating principles and Terms of Reference of the future Forum. These will then be submitted to the WMO and IOC Executive bodies for approval. More detailed information about the event will be posted on the following website, www.jcomm.info/SatCom1 as it becomes available.

Participation at this ad hoc Satcom Forum is open to all representatives of the WMO and IOC communities. Interested participants are invited to self register through the website. Representatives from the main Satcom service providers will also be invited to deliver relevant information to the Satcom users.

Yours faithfully,



(E. Manaenkova)
for the Secretary-General