



World Meteorological Organization  
Organisation météorologique mondiale

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Weather • Climate • Water  
Temps • Climat • Eau

Our ref.: OBS/SAT/SDR

GENEVA, 19 March 2015

Annexes: 4 (available in English only)

Subject: Coordination Group on Satellite Data Requirements for RAs III and IV: Invitation to first meeting on 27-28 April 2015 in Greenbelt, MD, USA, together with NOAA 2015 Satellite Conference (27 April–1 May 2015) and WMO/NOAA VLab training event (25-26 April 2015)

Action required: To notify the WMO Secretariat at your earliest convenience but **not later than 31 March 2015** the name of your nominee

Dear Sir/Madam,

The WMO Coordination Group on Satellite Data Requirements for RAs III and IV has been recognized at the sixteenth sessions of Regional Associations III and IV held in 2014 and 2013, respectively, as a standing regional mechanism to document user requirements for satellite data access and exchange, and to foster the dialogue between users and satellite operators. This is critical to improve the utilization of satellite data for weather, climate, water and related environmental services. EC-65 (2013), through Resolution 12, recommended the establishment of such mechanisms in all Regions.

In RA III, the Group collaborates with the Sub-Group on Observation Systems under the Working Group on Infrastructure and Technological Development. Within RA IV, the Group serves as an advisory group to the RA IV Task Team on WIGOS and WIS Implementation. Annex I contains Terms of Reference of the Group, and Annex II its current composition.

In 2014, the Group achieved important results: it provided a coordinated response to a NOAA proposal for additional geostationary image scans over South America from GOES-13 (East) during rapid scanning operations, mitigating the loss of GOES-12 (see Annex III for details);

To: Permanent Representatives of Members of Regional Association III (AMS-495)  
Permanent Representatives of Members of Regional Association IV (AMN-563)

cc: Hydrological Advisers to Permanent Representatives )  
Mr Frederick R. Branski, president of CBS )  
Lic. Julián Báez, president of RA III )  
Mr Juan Carlos Fallas Sojo, president of RA IV )  
WMO Regional Office for the Americas )  
Dr Leonel F. Perondi (Director, INPE) ) (for information)  
Mr José Raimundo Braga Coelho (President Agência Espacial Brasileira) )  
Dr Conrado F Varotto (Executive Director, CONAE) )  
Dr Stephen Volz )  
Assistant Administrator for Satellite and Information Services, )  
(NOAA/NESDIS) )  
Mr Alain Ratier (Director-General, EUMETSAT) )

it commissioned a survey among satellite data users in the Region, and agreed on a validated set of regional requirements for satellite data and products (for more information see: <http://satellite.cptec.inpe.br/geonetcast/es/datareq.html>).

With the goal to further strengthen the Group and improve representation of Members, I draw your attention to the following:

**Nomination of members:** only seven out of 39 Members of RAs III and IV are currently represented in the Coordination Group; in order to effectively meet the requirements for satellite data access and exchange of your country, I encourage you to nominate a representative for your country to the Group.

**First meeting of the Group on 27-28 April 2015:** This meeting is planned in conjunction with the NOAA Satellite Conference held on 27 April–1 May 2015 in Greenbelt MD, USA. The Group will meet in the morning of 27 April, and in the late afternoon of 28 April 2015. A WMO VLab-sponsored training event on GEONETCast-Americas and preparation to GOES-R is also planned on 25-26 April 2015. A draft agenda for these events is provided in Annex IV.

I wish to invite your nominated member on the Group to participate in all these meetings (NOAA Conference, Coordination Group meeting, and VLab training event) and should be grateful if you would agree to his/her attendance. It is hoped that the cost of participation will be borne by the Government of your country. If however it is not possible for your Government to meet all of the expenses for his/her attendance, WMO is prepared to consider upon request providing financial support which may consist of travel cost (most economic fare according to the most direct route) and/or per diem.

More information about the Conference and related events is available at <http://satelliteconferences.noaa.gov/2015/>. Nominated participants are encouraged to register online (for free) at their earliest convenience.

In order to clarify WMO's insurance coverage for non-staff members, I should like to draw your attention to the following:

*"The Organization accepts limited responsibility for compensation in the event of death, illness or injury attributable to the attendance at meetings or the performance of services, on behalf of the Organization, by non-staff members of the Organization who are authorized to travel at its expense and/or who are receiving a daily subsistence allowance. These persons are therefore fully responsible for any expenses incurred as a result of events which are not attributable to attendance at meetings or the performance of services on behalf of the Organization and for arranging such life, health and other forms of insurance as they consider appropriate".*

For administrative purposes, I should be grateful if you would kindly notify the WMO Secretariat (Ms Mireille Herin, [mherin@wmo.int](mailto:mherin@wmo.int)) by no later than **31 March 2015**, with the name of your nominee, whether he/she will be able to attend the meetings in Greenbelt, and if so, whether support for travel and/or per diem will be required.

Yours faithfully,



(J. Lengoasa)  
for the Secretary-General

**COORDINATION GROUP ON SATELLITE DATA REQUIREMENTS FOR  
REGION III AND REGION IV**

**TERMS OF REFERENCE**

1. The Group consists of a representative number of members from the satellite data user community in the Region, joined, as associate members, by satellite data providers and WMO. The Group is chaired by one or two representatives from key satellite data user organizations of the Region.
2. The Group maintains an updated list of satellite data and products available to the Region through existing dissemination services. Data and products shall be classified by categories of variables and derived products.
3. The Groups regularly reviews sources of regional needs and undertakes, as needed, further information gathering, such as surveys, to ensure that views of WMO Members in the Region are adequately represented.
4. The Group analyses the requirements for each relevant category of product, and identifies which requirements are not adequately met by existing services. The unmet requirements are prioritized, taking into account:
  - (a) The applications supported and their impact;
  - (b) The number and representativeness of the users;
  - (c) The status of the required data or products;
  - (d) The quality and suitability of the required data or products.
5. In summary the Group formulates recommendations pertaining to:
  - (a) Existing satellite data/products (with detailed references) to be included in existing distribution services, or moving a product from one service to another, or assigning lower priority to an existing product (or removing it if obsolete);
  - (b) Amendments of existing products or development of new products;
  - (c) Evolution (upgrade, or consolidating) of data dissemination means, or other (e.g. training, tools, user equipment);
  - (d) Short-term action to implement these recommendations.
6. The Group maintains a dialogue with satellite data providers of relevance to the Region, and other partners as needed, to ensure that its recommendations are implemented.
7. The Group uses the WMO Procedure for Documenting Regional Requirements for Satellite Data Access and Exchange, for guidance.
8. The Group meets in person at least every two years, and, to ensure continuity, works through collaborative tools during the intersessional period.

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OBS/SAT/SDR, ANNEX II

**NOMINEES TO THE COORDINATION GROUP ON SATELLITE DATA REQUIREMENTS FOR  
REGION III AND REGION IV  
(Status: November 2014)**

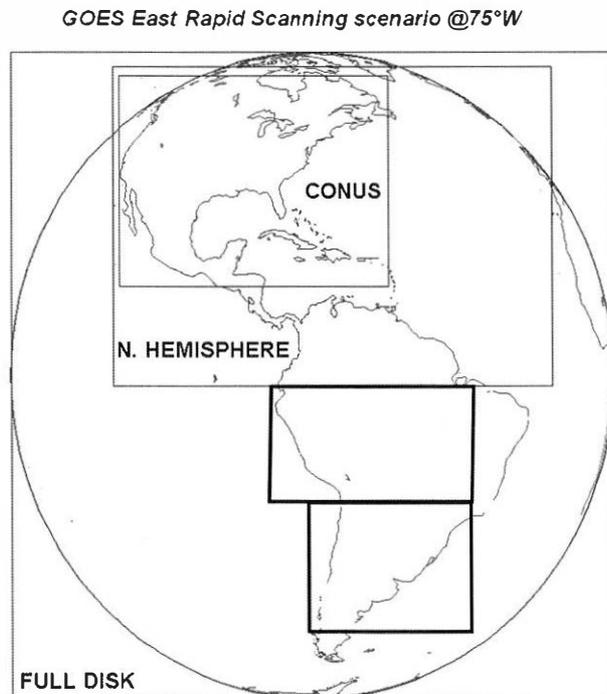
Name	Institution	Country
Estela Collini	Servicio de Hidrografía Naval (SHN) and Servicio Meteorológico Nacional (SMN)	Argentina
Luiz Augusto Machado	Center for Weather Forecasting and Climate Studies (CPTEC), National Institute for Space Research (INPE)	Brazil
Wagner de Aragão Bezerra	National Institute of Meteorology (INMET)	Brazil
David Bradley	Meteorological Service of Canada	Canada
Miguel Egaña	Dirección Meteorológica de Chile	Chile
Olga Gonzalez	Institute of Hydrology, Meteorology and Environmental Studies (IDEAM)	Colombia
Luis Fernández	National Meteorological and Hydrological Institute (INAMEH)	Venezuela
Bryan Thomas	Meteorological Office	Trinidad and Tobago
<b>Satellite operators</b>		
Paul Seymour	NOAA NESDIS	USA
Kelly Sponberg	NOAA NWS and UCAR	USA
Sally Wannop	EUMETSAT	International

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**AGREED OPTION FOR POSITIONING GOES-13 IMAGER SCAN FRAMES DURING RAPID SCAN OPERATIONS**

The multi-channel imager onboard the geostationary GOES-13 satellite positioned at 75°W is at a unique vantage position for providing imagery in support of nowcasting and many other weather services for the Americas. An overview of its field-of-view is given in the Figure below. During normal operations, the Southern Hemisphere is covered every 30 minutes. During Rapid Scan Operations of the imager, which are invoked for example during the hurricane season, the “CONUS” and “N. Hemisphere” areas (see Figure) are covered more frequently. As a consequence, the other areas, i.e. most of the South American continent, are scanned by the imager only every three hours, which is insufficient for many user applications.

In a letter to WMO, NOAA proposed to add two additional scan frames over South America to the operations schedule of GOES-13 imager during Rapid Scan Operations. The areas within these frames will be scanned once every hour rather than only every three hours, thus significantly improving coverage. The Coordination Group on Satellite User Requirements for Region III and Region IV, with assistance from the WMO Secretariat, developed a preferred option for positioning the scan frames (two bold boxes in the Figure below). It took into account user requirements and the availability of satellite imagery from other providers such as EUMETSAT. This option has been recommended to NOAA for implementation. This work is critical for many user applications and mitigates the loss of GOES-12 endured in 2013; it is an example for the value of the Group as a coordinated satellite data user community.



**Figure: Additional scan frames over South America (two bold boxes) during rapid scanning operations of GOES-13 (East), ensuring at least hourly coverage of the area at all times**

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**OBS/SAT/SDR, ANNEX IV**

**COORDINATION GROUP ON SATELLITE DATA REQUIREMENTS FOR REGIONS III AND IV**

**FIRST SESSION**

**27-28 April 2015  
Greenbelt, MD, USA**

**DRAFT AGENDA**

1. INTRODUCTION AND ADOPTION OF DRAFT AGENDA
2. TERMS OF REFERENCE AND REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES
3. PERSPECTIVES OF PRESIDENTS OF REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS
4. USER REQUIREMENTS FOR SATELLITE DATA: STATUS AND EVOLUTION
5. SATELLITE SYSTEMS FOR THE REGION
6. DATA RECEPTION AND DISTRIBUTION IN THE REGION
7. TRAINING NEEDS AND NEW GENERATION OF SATELLITES (GOES-R)
8. AOB

**MEETING SCHEDULE:**

27 APRIL 2015: 9.00-12.00  
28 APRIL 2015: 17.30-19.30

**VENUE:**

GREENBELT MARRIOTT HOTEL, ROOM TBD

**WMO/NOAA VLab Train the Trainer Workshop on Satellite Data Access, Application, and  
GEONETCast Americas**

**25-26 April 2015  
Greenbelt MD, USA  
Greenbelt Marriott Hotel (Conference Venue)**

**DRAFT AGENDA**

<b>25 April 2015</b>	<b>Saturday</b>
09:00	Registration, Welcome, and Introductions
09:30-10:00	WMO Virtual Laboratory for Education and Training in Satellite Meteorology
10:00-10:30	Coordination Group on Satellite Data Requirements for Regions III and IV - Update
10:30-11:00	Break
11:00-11:30	The GEONETCast – Americas Data Dissemination System – Introduction and Progress over the past 1-2 years
11:30-12:00	GEONETCast-Americas Directory structure
12:00-12:30	
12:30-13:45	Lunch
13:45-16:00	Satellite data processing and visualization software: Demonstration with case data (Sigma, GDAL, McIDAS-V)  GEONETCast-Americas System Demonstration
<b>26 April 2015</b>	<b>Sunday</b>
09:00-10:30	User cases and user needs: Participant presentations
10:30-11:00	Break
11:00-12:00	GEONETCast-Americas for emergency response and disaster management
12:00-12:30	Regional Focus Groups and Training
12:30-13:45	Lunch
13:45-16:00	Access to archive data through the NOAA CLASS system Software demonstration with case data