

### Annex to paragraph 4.2.29 of the General Summary

#### **CBS GUIDELINE FOR ENSURING USER READINESS FOR NEW GENERATION SATELLITES**

##### **Noting:**

- (1) The essential importance of data from geostationary and low-earth orbiting satellites for operational activities of WMO Members;
- (2) The planned introduction of several new generation satellite series by operators in the 2014-2018 timeframe, affecting all WMO Regions;
- (3) The experience of extensive user preparedness projects undertaken by different satellite operators, e.g. the NOAA Proving Ground programme for GOES-R and JPSS missions, or the Prepare the Use of MSG in Africa (PUMA) project of EUMETSAT in RA I for Meteosat Second Generation;
- (4) The Manual on GOS stipulating that, *“for smooth transition to new satellite capabilities, provisions should be made for appropriate preparation of the users through training, guidance to upgrade receiving equipment and processing software, and information and tools to facilitate the development and testing of applications”*<sup>2</sup>;
- (5) That the provisions of the Manual on the GOS are applicable to all satellite operators contributing to the Global Observing System;
- (6) That optimal utilization of new operational satellite systems should be assured and the risk of disruption for operational users be mitigated.

All WMO Members and satellite operators should assist users in preparing them for using the new generation of operational satellites, through the following activities:

- (1) Establishing and maintaining a dialogue between providers of the new generation satellites and prospective users, and raising awareness on new capabilities through user conferences, workshops and test beds;
- (2) Maintaining portals for updated information on development status of the new systems, instrument and data format specifications, and technical documentation;
- (3) User training, including the development of training material and training events, through the satellite provider–training centre partnerships established in the WMO-CGMS Virtual Laboratory, and other established mechanisms such as COMET, MetEd, and EUMETrain;
- (4) Development of learning and decision-support tools, demonstrating the added value of new products;
- (5) Provision of proxy data sets, tools, and products;
- (6) Indication of the maturity status of products (operational, development, experimental);
- (7) Guidance on the transition of receiving hardware;

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<sup>2</sup> Manual on the GOS, Part IV: Space-based Subsystem, updated version submitted to CBS for adoption.

- (8) Planning a parallel dissemination in old and new dissemination formats or protocols;
  - (9) Planning an appropriate overlap period between the operation of current and new satellites to allow intercomparison and validation of products, smooth migration of operational applications and downstream service delivery;
  - (10) Consider using multi-mission dissemination systems such as GEONETCast Systems, to allow for flexibility in accommodating new data streams, without the technical, financial, and schedule constraints related to setting up a receiving facility specific to the new satellite system;
  - (11) Establishment by each concerned NMHS or other operational user organization, of a user readiness project focused on the introduction of new satellite data streams into operations (to be initiated ~5 years prior to launch);
  - (12) Supporting user community-building through collaborative mechanisms, such as regular online briefings and social media.
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