

<b>WMO Space Programme</b>	<b>CONTRIBUTION TO THE SPACE-BASED COMPONENT OF THE GLOBAL OBSERVING SYSTEM</b>	SAT-ST-05 Version 1 23 February 2007
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## Preamble

WMO Congress (Cg XIV) has emphasized that existing and planned satellite programmes offered a major opportunity to support and enhance WMO programmes. The present note describes the conditions that should be met by satellite operating agencies willing to propose a satellite programme as a contribution to the Global Observing System (GOS) and the process to be followed in order to formalize such a contribution.

## Principle

As described in the Manual on the Global Observing System (Part IV, Space-based subsystem) the space-based component of the GOS includes three constellations of satellites:

- Operational geostationary satellites;
- Operational Low Earth Orbit satellites (in sun-synchronous polar orbit or in a different type of orbit) and
- Research and Development satellites (most of them being in a Low Earth Orbit).

A satellite programme has a potential to contribute to the space-based GOS if, in fulfilling one of the missions identified in the Manual on the GOS as part of one of these three constellations, it can satisfy requirements for space-based observations expressed by WMO programmes or WMO co-sponsored programmes and if the responsible agency agrees:

- to make the data available to WMO Members in a reliable manner,
- to inform WMO Members on how to obtain the data, and
- to provide assistance to the WMO strategy for education and training in satellite meteorology.

## Process to formalize a contribution to the GOS

In accordance with Executive Council and WMO Congress (Cg XIV) deliberations, the process for a satellite programme to be recognized as a contribution to the space-based GOS is the following:

- (i) Recognition, by the Commission for Basic Systems (CBS) or its designated expert body, of the potential of a satellite programme to satisfy observational requirements formulated by WMO or WMO-cosponsored programmes;
- (ii) Voluntary agreement by the relevant WMO Member, or by several WMO Members represented by an international organization, to fulfil with this satellite programme one of the missions listed in the Manual on the Global Observing System
- (iii) Designation by the relevant WMO Member, or by the relevant international organization, of the agency responsible for operating this programme;

- (iv) Agreement of the responsible agency to make the satellite data reliably available to other WMO Members and to inform the Members of the means of obtaining the data;
  - (v) Readiness of the responsible agency to provide assistance to the WMO strategy for education and training in satellite meteorology;
  - (vi) Agreement by the space agency to the Guidelines for requirements for observational data from operational and R&D satellite missions, as endorsed by EC LIII,
  - (vii) Readiness of the responsible agency to participate in the Coordination Group for Meteorological Satellites (CGMS) as the principal forum for technical coordination between satellite operators and contingency arrangements, with the understanding that actual inclusion into the CGMS membership is a decision to be made by CGMS members in accordance with CGMS Charter.
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