

COMMISSION FOR BASIC SYSTEMS
OPEN PROGRAMME AREA GROUP ON INTEGRATED OBSERVING SYSTEMS

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EXPERT TEAM ON SATELLITE SYSTEMS
NINTH SESSION
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GUIDANCE FROM OPAG-IOS CO-CHAIR

(Submitted by Anthony Rea, Co-Chair of OPAG-IOS)

Summary and Purpose of Document

This document provides guidance from Anthony Rea (Australia), Co-Chair of the Commission for Basic Systems (CBS) Open Programme Area Group on Integrated Observing Systems (OPAG-IOS), which is the overarching structure for ET-SAT and other expert teams.

ACTION PROPOSED

The Expert Team is invited to take note.

GUIDANCE FROM OPAG-IOS CO-CHAIR

I am honoured to have been nominated as Co-chair of OPAG-IOS, replacing Jochen Dibbern, who now assumes the role of OPAG-IOS Chair. The previous Chair, Lars Peter Riishojgaard has now joined the WMO Secretariat as WIGOS Project Manager.

I have been for many years a member of the sister team of ET-SAT, ET-SUP, and I am currently the Chairman of this team, which has just been renamed by CBS the "Inter-Programme Expert Team on Satellite Utilization and Products" (IPET-SUP). This reflects the need for the team to work across multiple programme areas within WMO, recognising that satellite data is utilised across climate, hydrology and other application areas in addition to weather watch.

Whilst Australia does not operate any of its own Earth observation satellites, due to our geographic location, large area and relatively small population we are heavily reliant on satellite observations to support many areas, including meteorology. As such, I am very appreciative of the tremendous contribution made by satellite systems to WMO Programmes, and I am strongly convinced of the important role to be played by ET-SAT in the coordination and collaboration framework set up by WMO. I am therefore very grateful to you and the agencies you are representing, for your time and your contribution to this collective work in spite of the numerous commitments that we all have in or day job.

The OPAG-IOS Chair and myself have both attended the Extraordinary session of the Commission for Basic Systems (CBS-Ext(2014)) in Asunción last September, where important steps were taken of direct relevance to ET-SAT, as will be reported under our Agenda Item 2. These include:

- New Terms of Reference for ET-SAT, emphasizing its linkage with CGMS and CEOS;
- Approval of the WIGOS Regulatory Material (including a chapter of the WIGOS Manual describing the space-based observing system);
- A Recommendation to the WMO Congress on preparation for new satellite generations;
- The decision to initiate the development of a new Vision for the space based components of WIGOS.

As representatives of the satellite operators contributing to WMO Programmes, your input to the new Vision is crucial. Through the Vision, you can raise the awareness within WMO on the expected future capabilities of space-based observation, and introduce novel ideas beyond the simple extrapolation of current systems. Experience has shown that formulating and sharing a Vision is the best way to foster voluntary collaboration and cooperation to progress towards a coordinated system. If we look at the current space-based component, many of the goals of the current Vision have been realised, or are near realisation.

The discussion you are going to have on the Vision is only a start. I anticipate that there will be several iterations on a draft Vision in 2015 and 2016 and I look forward to an active engagement of yourself and the agencies you are representing.

Many thanks

Dr Anthony Rea
OPAG-IOS Co-Chair
