

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

INTER-PROGRAMME EXPERT TEAM ON SATELLITE UTILIZATION AND  
PRODUCTS

ITEM: 13

FOURTH SESSION

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## **Status of OSCAR/Space database**

*(Submitted by Secretariat)*

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### **Summary and Purpose of Document**

Status of OSCAR/Space maintenance scheme was presented. In the 45<sup>th</sup> Session of CGMS, CGMS Members and Observers were agreed with the establishment of two support groups for OSCAR/Space database; the OSCAR/Space Support Team (O/SST) and the OSCAR/Space Science and Technical Advisory team (O/SSAT), to ensure the sustainability of OSCAR/Space in the years to come. This scheme is functioned as the foundation of cooperation with CGMS for sustaining the OSCAR/Space Database updating process through provision of information on their satellite programmes by making use of the provided templates from WMO. Members are invited to discuss about the further evolution of OSCAR/Space.

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### **ACTION PROPOSED**

The session is invited to note the information provided.

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### **Appendices:**

1. OSCAR/Space Maintenance Scheme
2. Example of letter from WMO to CGMS Satellite Operators and observers for the nomination of a focal point for the maintenance of the OSCAR/Space Database (O/SST) with template of satellite specification
3. Example of OSCAR/Space Database System Bugs & Requests

## DISCUSSION

### INTRODUCTION

The Observing System Capability Analysis and Review tool (OSCAR, [oscar.wmo.int](http://oscar.wmo.int)) is comprised of the following components:

- **OSCAR/Requirements**, which is the repository of technology free observational user requirements recorded quantitatively for the WMO Application Areas. [www.wmo-sat.info/oscar/observingrequirements](http://www.wmo-sat.info/oscar/observingrequirements). See document no. 7.1.1, and its Appendix 5 which provides a summary description of OSCAR/Requirements.
- **OSCAR/Surface**, which records WIGOS metadata (i.e. description of the observing platforms and their instruments allowing to derive the surface-based observing systems capabilities). This new component developed in partnership with MeteoSwiss was deployed operationally in May 2016, and now replaces WMO No. 9, Volume A. [oscar.wmo.int/surface/](http://oscar.wmo.int/surface/). See document No. 7.2(2) for details.
- **OSCAR/Space**, which includes an inventory of satellite instruments, missions and programmes, and an assessment of the variables that the instruments have the potential to measure, is the subject of this document. [oscar.wmo.int/space](http://oscar.wmo.int/space).

### Evolution of OSCAR/Space

In September 2016 version 2 of the WMO space based Observing System Capability Analysis and Review tool (OSCAR/Space v2) was released. It offers now (i) factual information on satellites and instruments, and (ii) instrument assessments and "gap analyses". In addition, the frequency plans of meteorological and some associated satellites and space-based space weather observation instruments are included as well. It was reviewed in CGMS-45 in June 2017, and CGMS Members and Observers are asked to support the WMO effort to maintain and update OSCAR/Space v2. It is challenging to sustain the information at its current level due to the increasing range of satellite programmes of CGMS interest, e.g. Space Weather. OSCAR/Space Users' Workshop was held in October 2017 in EUMETSAT Users' Conference for (1) further promote the use of OSCAR/Space; (2) inviting users to present their experiences in using OSCAR/Space; and (3) seeking contributions from users to the maintenance of OSCAR/Space.

For facilitating the provision of information on programmes, satellites and instruments templates have been created and made available to satellite operators by WMO to streamline the provision of input to the WMO Space Programme. This will help the OSCAR/Space project team to properly inject new and updated information into the OSCAR architecture. The task of keeping OSCAR/Space up to date can only be achieved with the network of experts from space agencies.

To achieve a sufficient maintenance and support for OSCAR/Space with keeping the database updated with information of sufficiently high quality, WMO would like to strengthen the cooperation with CGMS members and observers from other space agencies through newly established support groups, the OSCAR/Space Support Team (O/SST) and the OSCAR/Space Science and Technical Advisory team (O/SSAT), to ensure the sustainability of OSCAR/Space in the years to come. This scheme will lay the foundation of cooperation with CGMS for sustaining the OSCAR/Space updating process through provision of information on their satellite programmes by making use of the provided templates. The member of O/SST was nominated from CGMS Members and Observers, and requested to provide satellite specifications. The member of O/SSAT was nominated by CGMS ISWGs, GSICS, SCOPE-CM, and SCOPE-Nowcasting, and requested to 1) review the proposal for OSCAR/Space Database System updating, and 2) prioritize the bugs and requests.

### **Plans for the further evolution of OSCAR/Space**

A necessary budget and human resources will be allocated in accordance with the Decision 17 (CBS-16) on OSCAR Maintenance and Resourcing; where the Commission requested the Secretary General to facilitate maintenance and further development of the three components of OSCAR (OSCAR/Surface, OSCAR/Space, OSCAR/Requirements), and to actively solicit contributions from Members to this effort, for example in the form of JPO, secondments from satellite operators, or financial resources to the Trust Fund.

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