



**WORKING PAPER**

**Data Communications Infrastructure Working Group (DCIWG)**

**Project Team – Terrestrial (PT-T)  
Future VHF Sub-Group Meeting 7  
19 Feb 2024**

**Agenda Item 5 of FVSG: Liaison between DCIWG and FSMP – SARPs, Guidance Materials,  
Coordination with ITU, Radio Regulators and ICAO Regional Offices**

**Space-Based VHF Correspondence Group ToR**

(Presented by Manuel Garcia and Matthew Kelly)

**SUMMARY**

At the World Radio Conference 2023, a new allocation to the aeronautical mobile-satellite (R) service, AMS(R)S, in the frequency band 117.975 - 137 MHz was approved. The new allocation is required to be operated in accordance with international aeronautical standards. The RESOLUTION COM4/2 (WRC-23) was also approved inviting the International Civil Aviation Organization to take into account this Resolution in the course of developing SARPs for the AMS(R)S and planning the AM(R)S and AMS(R)S in the frequency band 117.975-137 MHz.

In this way, it is necessary to develop scenarios for implementation of Space-Based VHF. In addition to this, development of the planning criteria for satellite VHF should also be conducted by the FSMP.

To facilitate these efforts, FSMP/WG17 meeting agreed with the establishment of the Correspondence Group (CG) initially called the Space-Based VHF CG, aiming at first defining its terms of reference for such work, the expected timeframe of the project and potential deliverables.

So, this paper contains a proposed Terms of Reference of the Space-Based VHF Correspondence Group.

## **Space-Based VHF Correspondence Group Terms of Reference**

### **Background:**

At the World Radio Conference 2023, a new allocation to the aeronautical mobile-satellite (R) service, AMS(R)S, in the frequency band 117.975 - 137 MHz was approved. The RESOLUTION 428 (WRC-23) was also approved inviting the International Civil Aviation Organization to take into account this Resolution in the course of developing SARPs for the VHF AMS(R)S and planning the AM(R)S and AMS(R)S in the frequency band 117.975-137 MHz.

The new VHF AMS(R)S systems are required to be operated in accordance with international aeronautical standards, and the Space-Based VHF Correspondence Group (CG) has been established in response to this.

### **Objective and Scope:**

The CG is established to develop frequency planning criteria and procedures for new VHF AMS(R)S systems. The outcome from these discussions will be recommendations to the FSMP membership on:

- Proposals for Amendment (PfA) relating to the ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs) Annex 10 Volume 5 and planning criteria to be included in Doc 9718 (Handbook on Radio Frequency Spectrum Requirements for Civil Aviation) relating to the implementation of Space-based VHF.
- Their implementation in the associated frequency management tools as appropriate.

### **Composition:**

The CG will be composed of representatives with appropriate skills from the FSMP panel members, advisors, and formal observers.

### **Working Arrangement:**

The Space-Based VHF CG will report its progress and present its outputs to the Working Group of the ICAO Frequency Spectrum Management Panel (FSMP-WG). The Space-Based VHF CG will operate via correspondence and where appropriate convene virtual/physical meetings.

The Space-Based VHF CG will liaise directly with the FVSG, ensuring there is no duplication of effort and that both groups are aware of the work of the other. Any recommendations for external engagement, other than with the FVSG, will be prepared as recommendations to the full FSMP meeting.

The Space-Based VHF CG will operate until the objectives are met. The final draft of the output documents are targeted for delivery to the FSMP in 2025.

### **Deliverables:**

- Annex 10 Volume V SARPS:
  - AOC vs ATC
  - Datalink vs Voice
- Doc 9718, Vol. II - Planning Criteria –.