



ICAO

*International Civil Aviation Organization*

**EIGHTH MEETING OF SPECTRUM REVIEW WORKING GROUP (SRWG/8)**

Bangkok, Thailand, 05 – 07 March 2024

**Agenda Item 2:** Review outcomes of relevant meetings

**TERMS OF REFERENCE OF FMSP SPACE-BASED VHF CORRESPONDENCE GROUP**

(Presented by Australia)

**SUMMARY**

At FSMP-WG/17, a Space-Based VHF Correspondence Group (CG) was established. At FSMP-WG/18, that was held from the 06 – 16 February 2024 in Montreal, Canada, a Terms of Reference (ToR) for this CG was approved. This information paper presents that ToR to the SRWG.

**1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 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. Resolution 406 (WRC-23) (listed as COM4/2 in the WRC-23 Final Acts) 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.
- 1.2 To facilitate these efforts, FSMP-WG/17 meeting agreed with the establishment of a Space-Based Correspondence Group (CG), aiming to define its terms of reference, the expected timeframe of the project and potential deliverables.
- 1.3 At FSMP-WG/18, the Terms of Reference was of the CG was approved and it is presented in this paper for information. The CG is co-chaired by Mr. Martín (Enaire) and Mr. Kelly (Airservices Australia).

**3. ACTION BY THE MEETING**

- 3.1 The meeting is invited to:
  - a) note the information contained in this paper; and
  - b) discuss any relevant matter as appropriate.

-----

## **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 406 (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