International Amateur Radio Union Region 1

Europe, Middle East, Africa and Northern Asia Founded 1950

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SUBJECT	COMMON NARROWBAND-SEGMENTS, IN THE SECONDARY MICROWAVE BANDS		
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For a number of years the commercial use of the microwave bands between 1 and 11 GHz has been steadily and rapidly increasing. At the same time the amateur use of the rather wide secondary microwave amateur bands between 1 and 11 GHz have not changed significantly!

As a consequence of the increased commercial use, the (terrestrial) amateur radio activities are facing more and more problems, due to the “non-harmonized” national usage of the bands. (Example: In Region 1 we are forced to use at least three narrowband segments on 2,3 GHz: 2004, 2308 and 2320 MHz! This due to differing national limitations/usage.)

For decades the amateur microwave community have been divided in two philosophies:

a) Keep access to all we have got at present. Lets make no changes!
b) Lets work towards common (semi-) exclusive narrowband segments and give up access to parts of the (quite wide) secondary segments!

At present we have access to hundreds of MHz in the following bands:

1,3 GHz:	60 MHz
2,3 GHz:	150 MHz
3,4 GHz	10 (+) MHz
5,7 GHz	200 MHz
10 GHz	450 MHz

These figures indicates amateur access to over 8,6% of the available spectrum from 1 to 11 GHz!

Consider why national authorities shuffle around with the radio amateurs when commercial interests occur? (*Numerous examples can be mentioned!*)
Consider why the Amateur Radio Satellite Service has had better luck keeping access to the satellite segments? (*They had a plan! A known worldwide scheme!*)

At the Annual International Amateur Radio Satellite Forum during the AMSAT UK Colloquium 2004 this problem was discussed. There was a general feeling that if we fail to establish <u>common worldwide narrowband segments</u> (common to the terrestrial as well as the satellite operators) within the next few years, - it will never happen. Most of the spectrum will be occupied by commercial services!

(One additional benefit to this plan will be that the satellite and terrestrial operators will be able to use the same equipment for both activities. That is in general not possible today.
Example: On 2,3 GHz terrestrial = 2304/2320 MHz. Satellite above 2400 MHz!)

We therefore propose to produce a plan with the primary aim to establish common worldwide narrowband segments in the lower secondary microwave bands. (Exclusive or “semi-exclusive”.) A secondary aim would be to retain access to bandwidth enough to conduct experiments with real wideband modes. These segments do not need to be coordinated worldwide.

This plan will be the best possible future development to both the Amateur Radio Service as well as the Amateur Satellite Service in the lower secondary microwave bands.