User Announcement Concerning the Termination of Meteosat-7 Services from 0º

At the end of 2005, subject to the successful launch and commissioning of the MSG-2 (Meteosat-9) satellite, EUMETSAT will terminate the 0º Meteosat-7 services. When the MSG-2 satellite is fully commissioned, the 0º longitude services provided by Meteosat-7 will have been replaced by the new services from 0º provided by the Meteosat Second Generation (MSG) satellite series delivered via EUMETCast.

1. Termination of the 0º WEFAX Service

The final date for the termination of the WEFAX service will be announced in due course, but it is anticipated that this will take place in December 2005. Users currently operating Secondary Data User Stations (SDUS) should have migrated to MSG data via EUMETCast by this time (see Point 7 onwards).

2. Termination of 0º HRI Service

As with the WEFAX service, a final date has yet to be defined, it is however anticipated that the 0º HRI service from Meteosat-7 will be terminated on the same day as the WEFAX service in December 2005. Users currently operating Primary Data User Stations (PDUS) should have migrated to MSG data via EUMETCast by this time (see Point 7 onwards).

3. Termination of Meteorological Products from Meteosat-7 at 0º

With the termination of the Meteosat-7 0º service, the generation of meteorological products from the first generation of Meteosat satellite data at 0º will also end. The meteorological product service will continue using MSG satellite data from 0º and the products themselves will continue to be disseminated via the Global Telecommunications System (GTS) and EUMETCast.

4. Changes for Data Collection Service (DCS) Users

The termination of the Meteosat-7 0º service will impact DCS users in the following way. Firstly, the future Data Collection Platform (DCP) acquisitions will be via the MSG system. Secondly, the reception of DCP retransmissions by DCP Reception Stations will terminate. Thirdly, it is planned to make DCP retransmissions available via the Low Rate Information Transmission (LRIT) on MSG-2 (see Point 7), in addition to the existing retransmission means: Global Telecommunication System (GTS); EUMETCast and Internet-FTP pull.

5. Changes for Meteorological Data Dissemination (MDD) Users

The MDD service directly disseminated from Meteosat-7 will cease at the end of 2005. Users wishing to continue to receive MDD should make the transition to the reception via EUMETCast. In addition to the EUMETCast delivery, it is planned to make MDD available via the Low Rate Information Transmission (LRIT) on MSG-2.

6. Indian Ocean Data Coverage and Rapid Scanning Service

In order to support meteorological satellite coverage over the Indian Ocean region, EUMETSAT plans to continue the Indian Ocean Data Coverage (IODC) service until the end of 2008. It is envisaged that the Meteosat-7 satellite will take over from the Meteosat-5 satellite at 63º East. The IODC service will continue to be made available to users via both EUMETCast and direct dissemination from the satellite providing IODC service.

It is planned to continue the Rapid Scanning service provided by the Meteosat-6 satellite for some time beyond 2005. The Meteosat-6 satellite will remain at its current orbit at 10º East. Delivery of this service is via EUMETCast and FTP over the Internet.

7. Continued Coverage at 0º by Meteosat Second Generation

Meteosat-8, the first operational MSG satellite, has been providing High Rate and Low Rate SEVIRI data rectified to 0º longitude since the end of January 2004. Meteosat-8 and the future MSG satellites will continue to provide the 0º service.

The image service provided by Meteosat-8, SEVIRI High and Low Rate data, has many more benefits than the first generation Meteosat image data. For example, the High Rate SEVIRI data disseminated every 15-minutes in twelve channels, is an improvement on the HRI data which is only available every 30-minutes in three spectral channels.

EUMETCast, EUMETSAT's Broadcast Service for Environmental Data is the prime dissemination system for MSG data. The EUMETCast reception station uses existing commercially available hardware and software components and for those users familiar with the installation of PC software, it is also easy to set up. Users within Europe only require an 80-100cm reception antenna to receive EUMETCast in Ku-band.

For further information on EUMETCast, please read the attached EUMETCast Information Note, or consult the EUMETSAT web site.

In addition to the EUMETCast, EUMETSAT will begin an LRIT service (direct dissemination by the MSG satellites) following the successful launch and commissioning of the MSG-2 satellite in 2005. The contents of this service are currently being established. Further information will be available at the end of 2004.

8. Access to Licensed Meteosat Data

In accordance with Data Policy, some of the Meteosat data is licensed and as a consequence, users are requested to sign a licence agreement before access to these data is granted. Users should note that licences for access to Meteosat image data for research, educational and self-educational purposes are issued to users without charge.

9. Migration to EUMETCast

Making the transition from PDUS or SDUS to EUMETCast could not be easier. Firstly, the EUMETCast reception equipment is easy to acquire. Secondly, as both first and second generation Meteosat data are currently available on EUMETCast, users only require one reception system to receive both the HRI and the SEVIRI services. Thirdly, EUMETCast is a multi-service broadcast system, in addition to the DCP retransmissions and MDD, EUMETCast also supports other third party data such as foreign satellite data and the EUMETSAT ATOVS Retransmission Service. Finally, EUMETCast is the future dissemination system for the geostationary, polar-orbiting and environmental data services of EUMETSAT.

In brief

- WEFAX and HRI 0º services will terminate at the end of 2005
- Confirmation of the extension to the IODC service is expected at the end of 2004
- Research/educational institutes and private educational users can receive the licensed Meteosat data (SEVIRI and HRI) without charge
- EUMETCast is the baseline for the dissemination for the MSG satellite data and for future polar and environmental data
- It is time for those users within the EUMETCast footprint to make the transition to EUMETCast
- A direct dissemination LRIT service will be provided by the future MSG satellites, starting with MSG-2

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Introduction

EUMETCast is EUMETSAT's broadcast system for environmental data. It utilises telecommunications satellites and the services of telecommunications providers to distribute data files using Digital Video Broadcast (DVB) standards to a wide audience located within the combined geographical coverage zones of the individual telecommunication satellites used to transmit the data.

Services available via EUMETCast

The following EUMETSAT services are currently available via EUMETCast:

- High Rate SEVIRI Image Data (every 15 minutes)
- Low Rate SEVIRI Image Data (every 30 minutes)
- Rapid Scanning Service (RSS) (every 10 minutes) - *Ku-band only*
- 0º High Resolution Image (HRI) (every 30 minutes)
- Indian Ocean Data Coverage (IODC) (every 30 minutes)
- Foreign Satellite Data from GOES E/W & GMS (every 3-hours)
- Data Collection Platform (DCP) Retransmissions
- Meteorological Data Dissemination (MDD)
- Meteorological Products (including some Satellite Application Facility products)
- EUMETSAT ATOVS Retransmission Service (EARS) - *Ku-band only*
- DWDSAT - *Ku-band only*

EUMETSAT Data Policy principles apply to some of the above services. Access to DWDSAT is granted in accordance with the data policy of Deutcher Wetterdienst.

EUMETCast System Overview

Within the current EUMETCast configuration, the broadcast system is based on a client/server system developed by Tellique Kommunikationstechnik GmbH. The server side is implemented at the EUMETCast uplink site (Usingen, Germany), and the client side installed on the individual EUMETCast reception stations. Standard FTP is used on top of IP over the DVB multicast platform provided by the telecommunications providers.

Data files are transferred via a dedicated communications line from EUMETSAT to the uplink facility. These files are encoded and transmitted to geostationary communications satellites for broadcast to user receiving stations. Each receiving station decodes the signal and recreates the data/products according to a defined directory and file name structure.

Figure 1 shows how EUMETCast fits within the overall EUMETSAT Ground Segment architecture.

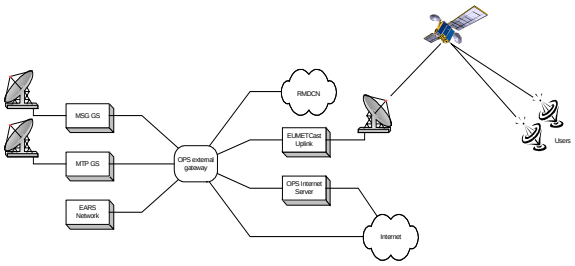

Figure 1 EUMETCast System Overview

In the current configuration, EUMETCast reception is available in Ku and C-band. The C-band delivery is operated as a turnaround of the Ku-band delivery. The data streams are uplinked to the AtlanticBird 3 satellite from ground station in Fucino, Italy. Figure 2 illustrates this turnaround mechanism.

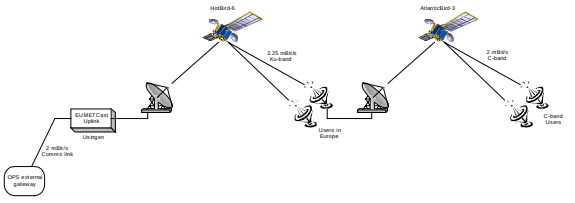

Figure 2 C-band Turnaround

A single reception station can receive any combination of the provided services. Users wishing to receive data whose access is controlled in accordance with EUMETSAT Data

Policy will need to install a EUMETCast Key Unit (EKU). The EKU is the USB device used in conjunction with a corresponding user_name and user_key to facilitate the reception of licensed services.

EUMETCast Geographical Coverage

The Ku-band has excellent coverage of Europe, northern Africa and parts of the Middle East, whilst the C-band coverage includes the African continent and parts of America in addition to Europe, see Figure 3 and 4.

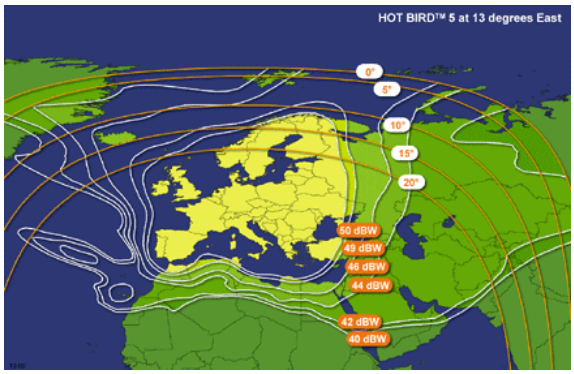

Figure 3 HotBird 6 Satellite Coverage

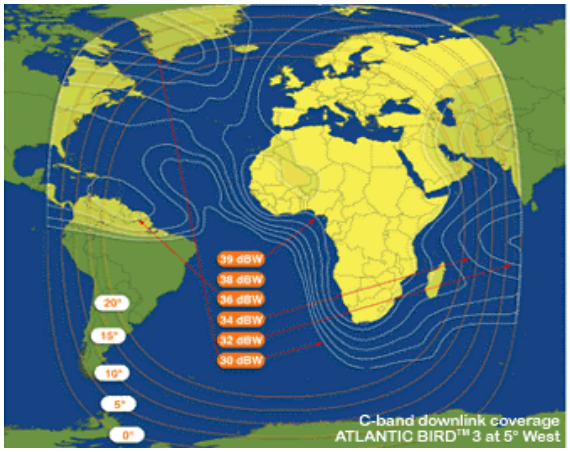

Figure 4 AtlanticBird 3 Coverage

Additional information on EUTELSAT's HotBird and Atlantic Bird satellites can be found on their web site at: http://www.eutelsat.com

Reception Station Requirements

A typical EUMETCast reception station comprises of a standard PC with DVB card inserted and a satellite off-set antenna fitted with a digital universal V/H LNB. In addition, Users require the EUMETCast Client Software. The EUMETCast Client Software is mandatory and a licence is required for each user station. The client software is required for handling the incoming DVB and storing it as data files. All components of the reception station are commercially available. The EUMETCast Client Software and the EKU are available directly from EUMETSAT at a cost of €60 and €40 respectively.

For detailed information on reception station requirements and set-up procedure, please refer to the EUMETCast Technical Description, EUM TD 15, available from the EUMETSAT web site.

For further information on EUMETCast and the services broadcast via EUMETCast, please refer to the EUMETSAT web site or contact the EUMETSAT User Service.

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