

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

DRAFT PROPOSALS FOR THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE

Agenda Item 1.5: *To consider worldwide/regional harmonization of spectrum for electronic news gathering (ENG), taking into account the results of ITU-R studies in accordance with Resolution 954 (WRC-07)*

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

WRC-07 established Resolution **954 (WRC-07)**, which ‘invites ITU-R to carry out studies of ENG regarding possible solutions for global/regional harmonization in frequency bands and tuning ranges, taking into account: available technologies to maximize efficient and flexible use of frequency; system characteristics and operational practices which facilitate the implementation of these solutions...’ CPM11-1 established a framework for the studies to be undertaken as outlined in Resolution **954 (WRC-07)** under agenda item 1.5.

Resolution **954** calls for the ITU-R to include in its studies “...sharing and compatibility issues with services already having allocations in frequency bands and tuning ranges which have potential for ENG use” and “to propose operational measures to facilitate operation of ENG equipment consistent with global circulation of radiocommunication equipment..” Furthermore, the ITU-R is to “...report the results of those studies to the World Radiocommunication Conference 2011.”

There is no specific mention of addressing changes to the Article 5 of the Radio Regulations in either the agenda item text or in Res **954**. Thus, careful consideration needs to be given to any solutions for this agenda item that refer to regulatory changes in Article 5. It may be possible that rationalization (the use of available technology to maximize efficient and flexible use of frequency assets) would be effective in utilizing existing spectrum allocations in the mobile and fixed service where ENG is employed

Recommendation ITU-R M.1824, “*System characteristics of television outside broadcast, electronic news gathering and electronic field production in the mobile service for use in sharing studies*”, provides digital and analogue system parameters for BAS in the mobile service. Recommendation ITU-R F.1777, “*System characteristics of television outside broadcast, electronic news gathering and electronic field production in the fixed service for use in sharing studies*”, provides digital and analogue system parameters for BAS in the fixed service. Report ITU-R BT.2069, “*Spectrum usage and operational characteristics of terrestrial electronic news gathering systems (ENG), Television Outside Broadcast (TVOB) and Electronic Field Production (EFP)*”, provides specifications for BAS.

Spectrum harmonization provides many benefits but may not be feasible given the disparate use of spectrum by countries around the world and the differing broadcasting standards used in the three ITU Regions. Instead a mechanism for spectrum rationalization may be more productive in allowing broadcasters to gain knowledge of, and access to, the spectrum used to support ENG operations in a given country or Region. This will help to ensure that international news-worthy events can be covered with a minimum of disruption to both foreign broadcasters and domestic regulators alike. The harmonization, or rather rationalization, of spectrum for ENG use should be considered on a band-by-band basis for each of the separate applications described in Report ITU-R BT. 2069-2. Furthermore it is recognized that the transition from analog to digital broadcasting will impact how ENG operations are conducted.

PROPOSAL:

ADD USA/1.5/1

Spectrum Management Guidelines for Electronic News Gathering (ENG)¹

The World Radiocommunication Conference (Geneva, 2012),

considering

- a) that some administrations may have different operational needs and spectrum requirements for electronic news gathering;
- b) that the dynamic nature of the use of ENG, which is driven by scheduled, unscheduled and unpredictable events such as breaking news, emergencies and disasters makes it highly desirable to facilitate the rapid and less restricted deployment and operation of ENG systems from one country to another,

recognizing

- a) that broadcasting ancillary services can be utilized as part of an administration's telecommunications/information and communication technologies (ICTs) systems in service of management in emergency and disaster situations for early warning, prevention, mitigation, and relief;
- b) that Recommendation ITU-R M.1824 provides system characteristics of television outside broadcast, electronic news gathering (ENG) and electronic field production (EFP) in the mobile service for use in sharing studies;
- c) that Recommendation ITU-R F.1777 provides system characteristics of television outside broadcast, electronic news gathering and electronic field production in the fixed service for use in sharing studies;
- d) that a large number of bands in Mobile and Fixed spectrum are already used to host various elements of electronic news gathering applications;
- e) that Report ITU-R BT.2069 provides spectrum usage and operational characteristics of terrestrial ENG, television outside broadcast (TVOB) and EFP systems,

noting

- a) that when an international news worthy event happens, ENG operations must be deployed in a very short time-frame;
- b) that frequency coordination must be undertaken with the Administration where an international news-worthy event takes place;
- c) that advance information on the frequencies available for ENG use in any given Administration may ease interoperability and/or internetworking , especially in international news-worthy events that draw broadcasters regionally or globally,

noting further

¹ For the purpose of this Resolution, ENG represents all applications ancillary to broadcasting, such as terrestrial electronic news gathering, electronic field production, TV outside broadcasting, wireless radio microphones, and radio outside production and broadcast.

that it is in the interest of administrations and broadcasters to have access to updated information on national spectrum planning for ENG use,

resolves

to encourage administrations to assist the broadcasting community in developing a database of currently available ENG frequencies, ENG technical and operational requirements, and spectrum authorization points of contact as appropriate,

instructs the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau

1. to maintain a link on the ITU-R website to the broadcast community's database(s) referenced in the resolves above;
2. to report on the progress on this Resolution to subsequent World Radiocommunication Conferences,

urges administrations

1. to provide the broadcasting community with the relevant information concerning their national ENG frequency allocations, ENG spectrum management practices, and appropriate points-of-contact for ENG usage within their administration;
2. to assist the broadcasting community in keeping the ENG database current.

Reasons: It is important that information be provided and maintained on ENG usage around the world. Resolution [USA-1.5-ENG] provides a mechanism to rationalize ENG spectrum usage by maintaining a data-base of country specific ENG bands with required technical and operational requirements for deployment. This will provide ENG users and operators with the needed information to ensure that they deploy equipment that will operate within a given country and allow them to seek spectrum use approval in an expeditious manner. It will also provide manufacturers with a knowledge base of required frequency bands and deployment requirements needed to build common-use equipment for the worldwide ENG market.