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AGENDA ITEM 1.9.1
PRELIMINARY VIEWS FOR WRC-19
(Item on the Agenda: 3.1 (SGT2A))
(Document submitted by the Coordinator)

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SGT2A – Radiolocation, Amateurs, Maritime & Aeronautical

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Agenda Item 1.9.1: *regulatory actions within the frequency band 156-162.05 MHz for autonomous maritime radio devices to protect the GMDSS and automatic identifications system (AIS), in accordance with Resolution 362 (WRC-15)*

BACKGROUND

RESOLUTION 362 (WRC-15) “*Autonomous maritime radio devices (AMRD) operating in the frequency band 156-162.05 MHz*”, prescribes a study process for WP5B in four parts: 1) to determine the spectrum needs for the devices, 2) to categorize the various kinds of devices, 3) to conduct sharing and compatibility studies to ensure that no undue constraints are placed on the GMDSS and the AIS, and 4) to conduct studies to determine potential regulatory actions and appropriate frequencies within the band 156-162.05 MHz.

The term AMRD is not part of the Database of ITU Terms and Definitions and needs clarification for a wider audience. At the May 2017 meeting of WP 5B, it concluded on the final definition of AMRDs and provides it to IMO and IALA:

“An AMRD is a mobile station; operating at sea and transmitting independently of a ship station or a coast station. Two groups of AMRDs are identified:

Group A: AMRDs that enhance the safety of navigation,

Group B: AMRDs that do not enhance the safety of navigation (AMRDs which deliver signals or information which do not concern the vessel can distract or mislead the navigator and degrade the safety of navigation).”

The devices discussed may use AIS technology; digital selective calling (DSC) technology; or transmit synthetic voice messages. Combinations of the technologies mentioned above can be found in equipment already available on the market.

The ITU Bureau sent a circular letter to all administrations including a questionnaire on the distribution and applications of AMRDs. The objective of the questionnaire is to get a clear overview of these devices and to compile and categorize existing AMRDs being used in different countries. Responses will be submitted to ITU-R Working Party 5B, the responsible group for this Agenda Item.

There is a need to recognize new autonomous maritime radio devices applications that aid navigation safety, safety communications and the maritime environment in an orderly and internationally-recognized way while limiting those that would hinder the safety applications of the GMDSS and AIS. Those new applications can be considered within the framework of ITU-R studies. The operation of autonomous maritime radio devices operating in the band 156-162.05 MHz should not constrain the frequencies designated for the GMDSS and AIS.

PRELIMINARY VIEW

USA

The United States supports the ITU-R studies prescribed in Resolution 362 (WRC-15) and these studies should also take into account the protection of the GMDSS and AIS.