



<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>The 70 MHz band in IARU Region 1</b>		
<b>Society</b>	<b>RSGB</b>	<b>Country:</b>	<b>UK</b>
<b>Committee:</b>	<b>C5</b>	<b>Paper number:</b>	<b>CT08_C5_I_14</b>
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### 1995: DETAILED SPECTRUM INVESTIGATION (DSI)

Well over 10-years ago a Detailed Spectrum Investigation (DSI) was carried out. Phase II of this investigation covered the spectrum 29.7 – 960MHz and the results were presented to CEPT administrations in March 1995.

The DSI Phase II report noted: ***“In several CEPT countries the amateur service operates in this band on a secondary basis whilst in others it is used for sound broadcasting or mobile applications. From a propagation standpoint, 70MHz is understood to be at the currently known extent of F2 ionospheric propagation. Sound broadcasting in Eastern Europe is likely to cease in this band within the next 15 years, and it is hoped the plan outlined in this document for the mobile services in the range 68-87.5 MHz will be acceptable to these administrations. This plan is based on 9.8 MHz transmitter-receiver spacing. The radio astronomy requirement at 79.75 to 80.25 MHz is also recognised and the band together with its 9.8 MHz complement 69.95-70.45 MHz are considered most appropriate for single frequency mobile applications, perhaps optimum for defence users with arrangements to protect radio astronomy.*”**

***It would therefore seem possible to agree to a limited amateur transmitting facility of at least 100 kHz centred on 70.2 MHz in the band 70-70.45 MHz. It is also hoped that the existing beacon network between 70 and 70.150 MHz can be maintained and extended.”***

A specific recommendation was made in the same report as follows: ***“The DSI Management Team recommend in the context of the European Table of Allocations and in accordance with the foregoing, that a minimum of 100 kHz in the band 70-70.45 MHz be allocated to the amateur service on a secondary basis according to national considerations, if feasible, centred on 70.2 MHz”.***

### CURRENT AMATEUR-SERVICE SITUATION

As of March 2008 the 70MHz amateur radio band (70.000-70.500MHz in the UK) is allocated to 23 DXCC countries within IARU Region-1.

These countries include Crete (SV9), Croatia (9A), Cyprus (5B), Denmark (OZ), Dodecanese (SV5), Estonia (ES), Faroe Islands (OY), Gibraltar (ZB), Greece (SV), Greenland (OX), Ireland (EI), Luxembourg (LX), Monaco (3A), Slovenia (S5), South Africa (ZS), UK Sovereign Base areas on Cyprus (ZC4), England (G), Isle of Man (GD), Northern Ireland (GI), Jersey (GJ), Scotland (GM), Guernsey (GU) and Wales (GW).

In addition several other countries have offered temporary permits to facilitate experimentation that include Azores (CU), Czech Republic (OK), Germany (DI2AL & DI2PM on 69.995MHz),

Hungary (HA), Italy (I), Madeira Is (CT3), Norway (LC0VHF), Portugal (CT), Sardinia (IS) and SMOM (1A).

## **REGIONAL ALLOCATION**

Since the DSI Phase II report in March 1995 sound broadcasting has declined in Eastern Europe and additionally commercial low-band PMR has also declined significantly mainly due to substitution by GSM and 3G.

A Regional allocation is sought throughout IARU Region-1 but until fairly recently there was a problem because no mention of any 70MHz amateur radio service allocations were made in the CEPT European Common Allocation (ECA) table.

Although a number of administrations are sympathetic to amateur experimentation in this part of the spectrum they are reluctant to release frequencies on a temporary or permanent basis in the absence of a relevant entry in Article 5 of the Radio Regulations or in the European Common Allocation (ECA) table.

However following a proposal by COMREG (Irish regulator) in February 2008 to the CEPT Frequency Management Working Group (FMWG) Ireland can now submit a 'note' to be included in the ECA table.

The note will report that a number of CEPT countries are now allocating the 70MHz band on a national basis to the amateur service. (An update confirming this will be made at the Cavtat Conference.)

It is therefore hoped that this note in the ECA will be sufficient for those amateur radio Societies that need additional help in obtaining a 70MHz allocation.

Furthermore, the note may also provide an opening for another proposal or request from the IARU to CEPT for a 70MHz allocation at some point in the future, hopefully at that time, with considerable support from countries that already have a 70MHz allocation.

## **ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE**

I urge all national societies to approach their PTT administration with a view to obtaining an allocation within the 70MHz band. Maybe start with a beacon on a spot frequency or reduced bandwidth. Even a 25kHz frequency slot is better than nothing.

If you require details of national allocations within IARU Region-1 then I suggest that you take a look at the Four Metre Web Site - <http://www.70mhz.org>

This contains a wealth of operational information and also a guide of how to obtain amateur access to the 70MHz band.

If you or your national Society require any further assistance or information regarding the 70MHz Band then please contact the RSGB VHF Manager, David Butler G4ASR ([g4asr@btinternet.com](mailto:g4asr@btinternet.com)).