

BFWAtg(01)23**ELEVENTH MEETING OF THE BROADBAND FIXED WIRELESS ACCESS TECHNICAL SUB GROUP HELD AT WYNDHAM HOUSE ON 13 JULY 2001**

Those present:

Steve Talbot (Chairman), Jim Nixon, Peter Jessup, Kevin Casey, Nichola Watts (Secretary), RA. John Norbury (Eurobell/BWA), Mike Willis (RAL), Ian Clarke (Netro)

An Agenda is attached at Annex A

1. **Apologies**

Ted Hornby (Atlantic Telecom), Barry Lewis and David Palmer (Ensemble), Richard Sweet (Thus), Peter Vogan (Your Communications), John Wood (P-com).

2. **Minutes of the last meeting** **BFWAtg(01)17**

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed, without amendment.

Matters arising

Mr Nixon had not received any comments from the Technical Group on RAS **Interference levels**, an issue that was outstanding for the previous minutes, under Matter arising. Mr Nixon explained that his understanding was that the Interference levels in ITU-R Recommendation RA.796-1 were expressed for 10% of time. He added that a new Recommendation recently developed on protecting the RAS (ITU-R Rec. RA.1513) requires that any “network” does cause more than 2% aggregate data loss to the 2000 second observation periods made by the RAS. Mr Nixon remarked that the extension study on the protection of the RAS, recently awarded to Transfinite Systems Ltd, would consider the new Recommendation. Mr Casey said RAS spectral line observations could shift significantly in frequency and asked whether this was considered in the new study. Mr Nixon replied that the work would concentrate on protecting continuum observations as these had the most stringent interference limit. Mr Nixon explained that the first step of the study would be for Transfinite to produce an interim report that will define system parameters of the RAS and BFWA to be used in the analysis and that this would be discussed with the RAS community. Transfinite will present the final report to the Technical group, and members will have an opportunity to comment.

In relation to another outstanding action in the previous minutes matters arising, Mr Jessup reported the **EU feedback** on the approval of the BFWA Interface Requirements to the group. He said that it takes the EU three months to approve an Interface Requirement. However this was done via a default process, i.e. once the three month period had expired approval is deemed complete, and that no formal correspondence with the EU had been forthcoming. Therefore both Interface Requirements (documents: 2040 and 2041), which are now available on the RA website in draft, have been approved.

Mr Nixon said he had not received any further comments from members on the Inter-operator Co-ordination Guidelines. Mr Kean (XO Communications) was now happy with the PFD trigger levels. The document is currently being published as a RA Information sheet RA390. Mr Nixon will announce its publication to the group

Mr Nixon had spoke to the German regulator to see if they were considering adding guidance on **antenna down-tilt** to their guidelines but they were unable to confirm this. Mr Nixon added that this would come to light once the German Administration completed their guidelines.

Mr Nixon announced that the 28GHz ERC Recommendation had successfully completed its consultation phase and was now published on the ERO website as ERC/REC/(01)03.

One comment was received from a BFWA member on the Working party on Propagation Requirements for BFWA, doc. BFWAtg(00)09. The BFWA member, who is also a member of the Fixed Services Task Group (FSTG) wanted to agree a time frame for the agreed priority list for the Radio Research Advisory Committee (RRAC) by the next meeting, which would be held in September. Therefore Mr Willis would like comments by September.

3. Radio Astronomy Site, Information and Issues

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Mr Talbot explained that this paper was purely for information and that it could be added to, should any significant changes arise. It gives details on UK and European Observatory, locations. It does not give any technical or regulatory functions that maybe required, as the issue of the 1GHz of spectrum that the Radio Astronomers have an interest in (42.5-43.5GHz) is still under study. The RA would undertake any required co-ordination with European observatories, within it's normal international co-ordination functions. However, the impact on European observatories from UK BFWA was expected to be minimal, if any. A BFWA member asked whether the onus in the UK, would be on the regulator or the operator to ensure they are operating in the 40GHz band within any agreed co-ordination guidelines. Mr Talbot said that the onus would be on the operator to ensure that no interference was caused to the RAS, although the Agency may be required to arbitrate in certain circumstances.

4. UK Regulatory Requirements (NFAP and Site Clearance)

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Mr Talbot then gave the delegates information on the regulatory functions that are required for specific BFWA assignments and gave a quick overview of the electronic forms that maybe used. He also informed the group that discussions concerning the use of an XML¹ file format system, were under discussion in the RA and that when these plans became more substantive, more information would be made available. In the case of the 28GHz band, he informed them that block clearance (that is where an entire band is notified to NFAP) could not be obtained because the allocation is shared between two different services, namely the Fixed Service and the Fixed Satellite Service. He also stated that the UK policy stated that assignments needed to be recorded nationally, before they could be registered internationally by the RA (the ITU do not recognise block-cleared bands, either). A BFWA member asked if this was a requirement for every terminal, in reply Mr Talbot said that following consultation with the NFAP

secretary every terminal had to be entered on the NFAP and subsequently, the national frequency allocation register (default process following NFAP approval). The BFWA member expressed concern, as he said that operators might not be able to cope with the vast number that may require recording. Mr Nixon noted that 28GHz would, in the main, be for commercial applications and numbers would not be as numerous as the anticipated domestic environment, envisaged for 40GHz. Businesses may have up to 100 customers per base station so it would not be too onerous for the operator to complete NFAP and site clearance forms. Also, interference issues into the BFWA service from band sharers at 40GHz, were less of an issue. Mr Casey said that block clearance could not be obtained for a band where shared services existed. However, he went on to explain that if numbers became vast, then as sharing became less possible, revision of the situation would be undertaken. **Chairman's note:** Members should be made aware that fixed service applications in many bands require individual recording for the same reasons as given above. These now run into thousands of recorded assignments.

¹ XML stands for Extensible Markup Language. XML is a system for defining, validating, and sharing document formats. XML uses **tags** (for example `emphasis` for *emphasis*), to distinguish document structures, and **attributes**. XML will look very familiar to those who have experience in SGML and HTML.

5. Draft ERC Recommendation on MWS in 40GHz BFWAtg(01)19

Mr Nixon presented the above document to the group. The draft was approved for Administration consultation at the CEPT Working Group Spectrum Engineering (WG SE) meeting held in May. He added that this document provided a basis for opening up the 40GHz band in the UK, and that the some other Administrations had been waiting for the publication of this document to declare their intentions for the band. The consultation process on the draft Recommendation will be conducted through Administrations so any feedback should be sent to the BFWA Technical Group for consolidation and agreement before being forward to the UK WG SE briefing meeting. Mr Nixon stressed that this was an important document containing information that would be useful to operators and manufacturers. Mr Nixon drew members attention to Annexes 1 and 3 in particular. It was anticipated, assuming agreement at the next WG SE, that the document would be published in October/November of this year. **Action: Members to provide comments on the draft Recommendation to Mr Nixon by Tuesday 18 September.**

6. Draft TM4 40GHz MWS Standard BFWAtg(01)20

Mr Nixon presented the above document to the group, explaining that it was the latest draft of a new ETSI EN standard on multipoint equipment for use in the 40.5 – 43.5GHz MWS band. It would shortly be approved by ETSI WG TM4, the drafting working group within ETSI, and then be subject to approval of the ETSI TM parent group before beginning the formal ETSI 2 step approval process. The covering paper gives details of both the processes; the Public Enquiry and the Voting stage. The Agency MPTM4 meeting (chaired by Ricky Donnegan) will co-ordinate the UK public enquiry processes and voting. If the final vote is in favour of the standard, only editorial comments will be taken into account and any general/technical comments will be filed and retained for

consideration in further editions of the standard. Therefore any important general/technical comments at the Voting stage will be registered with a “no” vote. Mr Nixon will circulate a “marked up” draft with comments to all those that request it. He stressed that as the document is a draft ETSI working standard, it should NOT be published. In particular he wanted to highlight the following areas of the document: Normative Annex A regarding 28GHz Spectrum masks; Informative Annexes B & C which refer to Annex 3 of the draft ERC Recommendation on MWS in 40GHz and include some additional information on receiver selectivity which may interest operators and manufacturers. **Action: Mr Nixon to make document available to those that request it.**

7. Verification of the PFD at the Service Area Boundary Using the Agency’s ATDI Radio Network Planning Tool BFWAtg(01)18

The Chairman introduced Mr. Jessup who has been extensively involved with the use of the ATDI planning tool. Mr. Jessup explained to the group that he had undertaken to confirm the findings of the Ægis document and the co-ordination distances quoted therein. He then gave a demonstration of the ATDI planning tool and its use in confirming the distances quoted.

8. A.O.B

Mr Nixon relayed a message from a BFWA member regarding CEPT SE19’s work related to autonomous frequency assignment algorithms. SE19 had recently decided they should produce a report “on mechanisms which could improve the coexistence between multipoint (TDD and FDD) systems”. Mr Nixon anticipated that there would be a Technical Group meeting before the next SE19 meeting on 12 – 14 September and that it might be worthwhile revisiting elements within BFWAtg(00)03 on adjacent band compatibility of dissimilar systems with the aim of feeding these into SE19 work.

Mr Talbot informed the group that BFWA licence holder, Your Communications (formerly known as Norweb Communications), had recently announced the commissioning of the first live systems, in 28 GHz, around the Manchester area.

9. DONM

The date of the next meeting is planned for Monday 3rd September, however due to the lack of attendees at this meeting we are requesting that group attendees inform us of their availability. Also, if any members wish to revisit any of the agenda items covered at this meeting, would they please inform the secretary (bfwa@ra.gsi.gov.uk).

Broadband Fixed Wireless Access Technical Sub Group

Meeting No.11

Date: 13th July 2001

Time: 10:30 – 13:00

**Venue:
Radiocommunications Agency
Wyndham House 189 Marsh Wall
London**

Draft Agenda

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the 10th meeting BFWAtg(01)17
 - Matters Arising
3. Radio Astronomy Site, Information & Issues BFWAtg(01)21
4. UK Regulatory Requirements (NFAP and Site Clearance) BFWAtg(01)22
5. Draft ERC Recommendation on MWS in 40GHz BFWAtg(01)19
6. Draft TM4 40GHz MWS Standard BFWAtg(01)20
7. Verification of the PFD at the Service Area Boundary Using the Agency's ATDI Radio Network Planning Tool BFWAtg(01)18
8. AOB, DONM

Lunch will be provided.