

Minutes of tenth meeting of the 450-470MHz band re-alignment project  
Industry Working Group held on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> September at Wyndham  
House.

Those present:

Stephen Limb	RA (Chairman)
Alexandra Hagger	RA (Secretary)
Dave Sweeny	RA (Re-alignment engineer)
Derek Banner	Wireless Messaging Assoc.
Anton Matthews	FCS Executive
Glenn Everett	DTI (statistician)
Keith Jones	Transco
Derek Baker	Multitone
David Tripp	CSS
Dave Clark	Home Office
Simon McCutcheon	Home Office
Jon Bental	Transcomm UK
Tim Cull	Motorola
David Priestly	JRC
Mike Brookes	LPRA
Adrian Grilli	JRC
Colin Dalziel	Scottish Executive

Apologies:

Richard Greenleaf	JFMG
Adrian Noad	Transcomm UK
Gerald David	FCS
Alan Hudson	FCS Consultant
Mike Thilo	Radio Systems Ltd

Minutes:

The minutes of the ninth meeting were agreed.

Actions/Matter arising from ninth meeting

OSCA have information on on site and wide area paging and will present to Stephen limb.

**Action: Discharged**

The paper explaining the transition stages with constraints is still being developed.

**Action: Steve Limb – Ongoing**

JFMG requested knowledge of services immediately below 450MHz.

**Action: Steve Limb – Ongoing**

At the eighth meeting it was identified that a database containing all usage in the band was needed. This has partly been done; there is now a database of all names and addresses of customers who the survey is being sent to, however this does not contain licence details etc. The Data Protection Act was raised as a potential issue to consider, however it was generally thought that this should not be a problem and further information on this matter could be obtained from Roger Stewart at the RA.

**Action: Steve Limb, Dave Sweeny and Alex Hagger – URGENT to complete the database.**

Survey progress, Glenn Everett has confirmed the Minister has agreed compliance plan.

**Action: Discharged**

Survey progress, to organise design, print and mailing of the survey. This is just about there, the survey is in the last stages of design and will be going to print end September and mailed to customers beginning of October.

**Action: Steve Limb and Alex Hagger - Ongoing**

Arrange for Scottish contact from the Scottish Executive to attend 10<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Action: Discharged**

Derek Banner and Derek Baker have found out the costs and timescales for their customers to move, assuming they will be given 6 months notice. Derek Banner will present the information to Steve Limb.

**Action: Discharged**

Presentation from Colin Dalziel from the Scottish Executive

Colin Dalziel showed the group a PowerPoint presentation on the position of Scottish Executive use of the 450-470MHz band, the users in the band and the band use.

- Band use – base TX is high and base RX is low which is the opposite way round to England and Wales. This has not caused any problems to or from commercial users in the band (in Scotland) that are aligned the same way round as in England and Wales.
- Users – Police 83%, Prisons 11%, Fire 2% and Government/Misc./Emergency Voice Network 4%  
7 Police forces use UHF and 1 uses high band. Other uses were listed and these can be found on the presentation that was issued to all members and will be placed on the RA website on the IWG secure page.
- Current position – The current position of the Police service is; migrate to Airwave 2004-2005, 2006 for mop up/slippage and it is expected that the band will be clear by 2007-2008. Other users are uncertain of their position at the moment.

Dave Clark also confirmed that a slippage period would probably be necessary for England and Wales's migration to Airwave. Police will not want to turn off old systems until they have the confidence that the new system is working perfectly. It was raised that Northern Ireland are not moving to

Airwave but are still moving to the same 380-400MHz band. It was also pointed out that government could not force the emergency services to move to 380-400MHz.

### Survey Progress

The group was informed that the survey is just about ready to go. The timing for analysis was unknown at the moment; Glenn Everett needs to see a final questionnaire before he can estimate timing.

**Action: Alex Hagger – to send Glenn a copy of the questionnaire  
Glenn Everett – to find out how long analysis of the results will take.**

Interference and other issues raised form survey discussion.

- Derek Banner stated that if there is not an interference problem, Industry might not want to go ahead with re-alignment. The only way they would want to, would be if government funded the re-alignment. Jon Bental seconded this statement.
- It was also stated that Dolphin have gone into administration and the question was asked 'will their spectrum become available?' If it does, would there still be a need to re-align?
- Anton Matthews raised that Interference was only a small reason for re-alignment.
- Adrian Grilli stated that if re-alignment does not take place for another 5-10 years private Tetra might not be necessary and therefore this would not be a good reason to re-align. He also said that the original drivers for industry to re-align have changed since the project first started.
- It was suggested that the beneficiaries of band re-alignment would be the RA and new users into the band, therefore these should be the people who pay for re-alignment.
- Tim Cull pointed out that re-alignment could benefit the country economically. Users of UHF2 are currently making £360 million worth of benefits, after re-alignment this could increase immensely. His information was taken for the RA's Economic Impact study.
- It was suggested that it would be useful for a question and answer sheet to be written to help answer telephone queries on the survey.

It was agreed that decisions on costs and benefits could not be resolved until the results from the survey had been received and the RA had done more research. It was agreed that the survey should be sent out as soon as possible however, concerns were raised because the survey was not being sent to short range device users. Mike Brookes explained reasons for this:

1. It would be very difficult and time consuming to find everyone, as they are not licensed.
2. These users are already very concerned about the re-alignment; not sending the survey to them might restore confidence.
3. Re-alignment of the rest of the band would not cause interference to users if they did not re-align.
4. The current survey wording has no relevance to these users.

Steve Limb also stated that the SRD users would most likely not be moving, since a short implementation timescale (3-4years) may be favoured and it is not feasible to move SRDs over this short a period. It was suggested that a separate survey of these users could be done at a later date if a decision is made for a long implementation timescale .

## SMAG

Alex Hagger briefly explained that SMAG are very interested in the re-alignment project and are willing to help support and promote it. The group would need to discuss what they would like SMAG to do. A few issues were raised.

- Seminar to launch the consultation in Spring 2002.
- Help with trying to obtain funding form the Treasury

It was decided that it was maybe too early to say what we will need help with until we get the results form the survey. It will be on the agenda for further discussion at the 11<sup>th</sup> IWG meeting.

## Comments on Draft Band Plan

Transcomm have not had any response from the RA to comments made by them at a confidential meeting with the RA in July. Therefore they continue to reserve their position. Stephen Limb agreed to investigate why there has been no response by the RA.

**Action point: Steve Limb**

## AOB

### Paging

Derek Baker and Derek Banner had a meeting with Steve Limb, Dave Clark and Simon McCutcheon on the 19<sup>th</sup> July 2001 to discuss further the first proposed move on the band plan, which is the move of paging. It was reported that the meeting was very interesting and gave the Home Office a better understanding of several issues. It was decided that the Home Office could free up 2 channels for new paging use, which would be in line with the current proposed band plan. Derek Baker and Derek Banner are awaiting confirmation in writing from the Home Office that they can start to use the channels.

### Working Practices

Steve Limb told the group about the IWG secure page on the RA website and invited comments. People generally preferred new or amended documents to be e-mailed as attachments rather than just placed on the website. It was agreed that this would be acceptable unless it was a particularly large attachment. It was also agreed that any changes to documents would continue to be e-mailed to members. All documents e-mailed will also be available on the website.

## Project Plan

The RA has no current project plan. It was decided that there is a definite need for one and that the RA must prepare one as soon as possible. This will be done in Microsoft Project 2000. When completed the plan will be available on the secure page of the RA website for the group to view.

**Action: Steve Limb, Dave Sweeney and Alex Hagger – Urgent**

## Agenda Item for next meeting

Tim Cull would like to add to the next agenda an item on the possible effects on the project of the introduction of spectrum/secondary trading, since this is likely to add an extra dimension to the process of altering spectrum assignments.

## Date of next meeting

Pencilled in 13<sup>th</sup> November 2001 (only if the RA felt it necessary, if it appears there is a lack of response to the survey)

18th December 2001, location to be confirmed.

(It was noted that Central London is the preferred choice to hold IWG meetings)