Romania joins 5 MHz

NEWS has broken that the Romanian telecoms regulator ANCOM has granted YO amateurs access to 5 MHz on a scheduled testing basis, starting 8 Apr 2016 for approximately a year’s duration. At the moment it is limited to the 3 kHz-wide 5363.5 - 5366.5 kHz slot; CW, PSK, RTTY and WSJT being permitted (with possibly other digimodes to follow). Maximum power allowed is 15W e.i.r.p. and only for those YO hams who wish to register for the testing program. It seems that the initial testing in the YO 5 MHz test allocation will take place every Thursday around 16.00 UTC, concomitantly with the YO DX QTC Net on 3750KHz. Further information can be obtained from the website of the Romanian national amateur radio society: Federatia Romana de Radioamatorism (FRR) at http://www.hamradio.ro/Comunicate/2004201601

(Tx: FRR, YC3FCM/MWIPU)

Spain first to adopt WRC15 Frequencies

URE - the Spanish national amateur radio society, following discussions with their telecoms regulator SETSI (Secretary of State for Telecommunications and the Society of Information), are pleased to announce the renewal of the temporary authorization in the 5 MHz band which had terminated at the end of November 2015. As a result of the review of International Radio Regulations adopted at the ITU World Radiocommunication Conference which ended on 27 November 2015, the amateur service gained a new secondary allocation (together with certain technical conditions), in the frequency band from 5351.5 to 5366.5 kHz. This regulation comes into force on January 1, 2017.

As an interim measure, SETSI has authorised the use of these new 5 MHz frequencies until the end of 2016, with a maximum power of 15W e.i.r.p.

URE are anxious to point out that the only modes of transmission currently permitted are CW and SSB, remembering that IARU has recommended the use of USB - upper sideband. Therefore, the authorization does not allow the use of any digital mode.

(Tx: WR6EX, URE, other EAs)

In this issue...

NEWS: Latest on 5 MHz Romania joins 5 MHz Spain adopts WRC15... Followed by Belgium Post WRC15 Discussions Netherlands goes live on 60m Honduras gets upgrade Czechs clear for another year 5 MHz for St. Kitts & Nevis US Military-Ram 5 MHz Test WRC15 Final Acts download IARU RI Provisional Bandplan ‘Tone Burst’ NVIS Cartoon

POSTSCRIPT: An Apology

.................Followed by Belgium

FROM 1st March 2016 Belgian radio amateurs holding Class A (HAREC) licences have been permitted by their regulator, BIP/IBP to use 5351.5 - 5366.5 kHz on a Secondary basis in line with the decision agreed at WRC-15.

All modes are permitted with a maximum power output of 15 Watts e.i.r.p.

(Tx: ON7XO, G3PSM, IARU)
Post - WRC15 Discussions with Telecomms Regulators

THE South African Radio League (SARL) and their regulator /ICASA have regular quarterly liaison meetings. Following WRC15, the new secondary allocation at 5 MHz was discussed. ICASA confirmed that the African block supported the WRC agenda item and said that it was largely as result of the propagation studies that the League and its members carried out and the support the /ICASA team was given by the League to canvas for Regional and African support. ICASA also confirmed that the new allocation would not be a problem but that it would require a change in the table of frequency allocations. This is a lengthy process but an interim measure will be looked at. The League requested that the beacon frequency of 5290 kHz be maintained to continue the research project until at least the start of the next solar cycle. The League submitted a formal motivation for consideration by /ICASA, also proposing that the power limit be raised. At the most recent SARL/ICASA meeting, the SARL 5 MHz proposal for the way forward was discussed. It is receiving attention by the frequency spectrum and licensing departments. The next step is to submit the ICASA request to the SARL Executive and Council.

Netherlands 5 MHz Allocation Goes Live

READERS will recall that in Edition 14 of The 5 MHz Newsletter we reported that, following approaches by the Dutch national amateur radio societies of VERON and VRZ4, plus subsequent discussions with the Dutch Military over a number of years, it had been agreed with the Dutch regulator, Agentschap Telecom (AT), that temporary access to 5 MHz may be granted as an amendment in the next round of changes to the National Frequency Plan. (NFP).

This has now taken place and on 3 December 2015, the band 5350 to 5450 kHz was made available on a Secondary basis to all Dutch Full licensees. All modes are permitted with a Maximum Power of 100 W e.r.p.

Honduras Gets 5 MHz Upgrade

GENERAL, Advanced and Superior class amateurs in Honduras obtained an upgrade in their 5 MHz allocation during Autumn 2015. By virtue of Resolution NR013/15 dated 30 September, regulator CONATEL increased Maximum Power to 100W p.e.p., changed the 5368 kHz channel to 5358.5 kHz and added the following modes - USB Voice (2K80J3E), Data (2K80J2D), RTTY (60H0J2B) and CW (150HA1A). This is in line with earlier US changes.

5 MHz - Czechs Clear for Another Year

PETR, OK1RP, tells us that the Czech regulator, CTU and their Ministry of Defence have allowed 5 MHz operation for another year, till the end of 2016 following favourable reports. The same 12 channels are available on a permit basis with a Maximum Power of 100W e.r.p in a Maximum Bandwidth of 3 kHz. (see The 5 MHz Newsletter Edition 13 Winter/Spring 2014-15 for more details of the allocation).

(Tnx: OK1RP)

5 MHz for St. Kitts & Nevis

IN Autumn 2015, permission was given for amateurs in St. Kitts & Nevis to operate on 5 MHz by their National Telecommunications Regulatory Commission. All General and Advanced Class operators are permitted to use SSB Voice (USB) on the following five channels with a Maximum Power of 50W p.e.

These are: 5330.5, 5346.5, 5355.5, 5371.5 and 5403.5 kHz.

Visit http://ntrc.kn/?p=764 to see the new regulations.

Direct Military-Ham 5 MHz Contact During US Comms Test

THE annual US Armed Forces Day Communication Test is an opportunity to exercise two-way communication capability between Amateur Radio and military stations using a variety of modes, including SSB and CW as well as digital modes. This annual event gives participants - including shortwave listeners (SWLs) - an opportunity to demonstrate their technical skills and to receive recognition from the appropriate military radio station. The Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard co-sponsor the joint military/Amateur Radio, with military stations transmitting on military frequencies and listening on Amateur Radio bands. This year's event, which takes place on Saturday, May 14 (to avoid conflicting with the Dayton Hamvention, May 20 - 22) will include a significant new event: Selected military stations will be using 5 MHz interoperability channels to communicate directly with Amateur Radio stations on the band. Selected military stations will also use crossband Automatic Link Establishment (2G ALE) communication as well as MIL-STD Serial PSK to send the Secretary of Defense Armed Forces Day message. Amateur Radio stations and SWLs interested in trying the MIL-STD Serial PSK mode can download MS-DMT from http://www.n2ckh.com/MARS_ALE_FORUM/MSDMT.html. Full details about this year's Armed Forces Day radio will be posted by April 12 and will also appear on the US Army MARS Facebook page.

(Tnx: ARL)

WRC15 Final Acts Available for Free Download from ITU

A PDF Version of the Final Acts of the recent 2015 World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC15) is now available for free download from the online ITU Bookshop at http://www.itu.int/pub/R-ACT-WRC12-2015.

The section containing the Information about the new amateur 5 MHz secondary allocation can be found in the part referring to "Article 5 - Frequency Allocations" and is on p.6 entitled "MOD 5003 - 7450 kHz", the accompanying table showing the new allocation.

The additional material showing the power level plus the extra allowances for the Central and South Americas is on the following page under the heading "ADD 5.133B".

A printed version will cost you 181 Swiss France!

(Tnx: ITU)
IARU Region 1 Agrees Provisional 5 MHz Bandplan

IARU Region 1 at its April 2016 Interim Conference in Vienna unanimously agreed to a paper presented by The RSGB’s HF Manager, Ian Greenshields G4FSU, outlining a basic provisional Bandplan for the new 5 MHz WRC-15 allocation. The plan is intentionally very simple as the band is too narrow for any detailed planning.

It is that the following proposed usage plan for the 5 MHz WRC-15 allocation be implemented in Region 1 with a view to harmonising across all regions:

- 5351.5 - 5354 kHz 200 Hz CW/ narrow band modes
- 5354.0 - 5366 kHz 2700 Hz All modes, USB voice recommended (see diagram).
- 5366.0 - 5366.5 kHz 20 Hz Weak signal narrow band modes.

It is strongly recommended that frequencies within the WRC-15 allocation only be used if there are no other frequencies available at 5 MHz under domestic (ITU-R Article 4.4) permissions. Local nets and long rag-chew QSOs should not use the 5 MHz WRC-15 allocation but should instead make use of the 3.5 MHz, 5 MHz domestic or 7 MHz bands where there is more spectrum available.

Please note the bandplan is not valid until the WRC-15 frequencies are made available by your regulator.

(Tex: IARU R1)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Usage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5351.5</td>
<td>All Modes, USB Voice</td>
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<td>5354</td>
<td>WS</td>
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<tr>
<td>5357</td>
<td>200 Hz</td>
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<tr>
<td>5360</td>
<td>2700 Hz</td>
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<tr>
<td>5363</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5366</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

A Blast from the Past!

IN 2000, RSGB launched a fledgling - but short lived - bookstall magazine by the name of 'Radio Today'. Your 5 MHz Newsletter editor was asked to write an article for the July edition on NVIS Propagation (p44). Regular cartoonist of the time, Paul, GM6MEN, produced this delightful work for the September edition. Taken from 'Amateur Radio The First 100 years' and used by kind permission of the RSGB.

Postscript....

Hi All,
First an apology. In our WRC15 Special we said that power levels equated to realistic TX outputs of 80, 80 and 100W respectively. This was based on a misinterpretation of committee discussions. The output power limit of 15W e.i.r.p. was deemed to be effectively produced from a feed of 60W from a military TX into a standard military whip of minus 6 dB gain.

Well, now that I’ve got that off my chest - how’s your national society doing with an early implementation/integration of WRC15?

Paul Gaskell, GM6MWO, Editor, The 5 MHz Newsletter.