



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
1325 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910-3283

Arthur W. Rolle
Director, Department of Meteorology
P.O. Box N-8330
Seaban House, Crawford Street
Nassau, N.P.
Bahamas

OCT - 9

Dear Mr. Rolle:

I would like to bring your attention to an urgent matter. The International Satellite Communications System (ISCS) is transitioning to a new generation – ISCS-G2e. This new system requires the installation of new equipment at your site; however, the World Area Forecast System (WAFS) and RMTN broadcast will continue to be available over all workstations intended for that purpose. In order to continue to be part of the World Meteorological Organization Regional Meteorological Telecommunications Network (WMO RMTN), your organization needs to sign a NOAAnet User's Connection Agreement as soon as possible.

I am pleased to inform you that cost sharing of the ISCS RMTN satellite space segment will cease. The only cost associated with the ISCS-G2e for the RMTN members will be for maintenance of equipment. Selection of the maintenance service provider for the equipment at your site is at your discretion. I encourage you to select a qualified provider and note that Verizon may be consulted to provide information for your particular site.

There will be two significant changes at each ISCS RMTN site:

1. A new high-speed digital terrestrial circuit will be installed to transmit site-specific data to the NWS Telecommunications Gateway File Transfer Protocol server.
2. State-of-the-art equipment will replace the obsolete ISCS satellite PES-8000

I have asked Mr. Pat Gillis, NOAA's ISCS Program Lead, to provide you with more details about the transition, including a copy of the NOAAnet User's Connection Agreement. I invite your representative to take part in a conference call with NOAA on October 22, 2009 from 2:00-3:00 pm eastern daylight time to discuss the ISCS-G2e transition.

Thank you for your continued cooperation with NOAA's National Weather Service in the coordinated effort to improve the WMO's RMTN.

Sincerely,

John L. Hayes
Permanent Representative
of the U.S. with WMO

