

Technical Details for the ISCS Transition

The U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Weather Service (NWS) is working with you to improve the telecommunications service, weather prediction, and weather planning capabilities in World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Regional Association IV (RA-IV).

The International Satellite Communications System (ISCS) Regional Meteorological Telecommunications Network (RMTN) will be adopting new technologies as NOAA extends its ISCS contract to March 2010. At that time, NOAA's ISCS partner, the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration, will extend the service to the end of June 2012. We refer to this extended service as ISCS-Generation 2 Extended (ISCS-G2e). Though it will not achieve all the goals originally intended for the next generation of ISCS, it will provide services comparable to or better than those available on the current system. ISCS RMTN Members will continue to receive the World Area Forecast System (WAFS) and RMTN broadcast unaltered from the current broadcast using their current workstations.

The PowerPoint presentation gives more details about the changes that will come with ISCS-G2e. To summarize, there will be two significant changes at every ISCS RMTN site:

1. A new high speed digital terrestrial circuit will be installed at each site to transmit site specific data to the NWS Telecommunications Gateway (NWSTG) File Transfer Protocol server. (Scheduled to be completed by November 15, 2009)
2. Obsolete ISCS satellite PES-8000 equipment will be replaced with new state-of-the-art equipment to assure continued reception of the satellite broadcast throughout RA-IV. (Scheduled to be completed between January 2 and March 30, 2010)

In order to take part in the transition process, you must sign and return the enclosed "NOAANet User Connection Agreement" associated with the installation and operation of the new digital terrestrial circuit. No ISCS RMTN site will transition to the digital terrestrial circuit unless there is a signed agreement in place. Send the signed agreement and point of contact details to:

Pat Gillis, ISCS Program Lead
NOAA's National Weather Service
1325 East-West Hwy
Suite 3382 SSMC2
Silver Spring, MD 20910
Patrick.Gillis@NOAA.gov

Planning for the transition continues and detailed schedules will be posted on the ISCS web page (www.weather.gov/iscs) as they become available. To complete the transition, Member States will need to ensure that the Contractor for the terrestrial circuit and the Verizon representatives for the VSAT installation will have access to your site on their scheduled installation days. It is imperative that both be given access to the ISCS RMTN site, and that your site is prepared for the transition on the scheduled installation dates. Should a Member State fail to have their site prepared by the scheduled installation dates, the Member State will be required to pay the additional costs for any unscheduled visits to your site. The NWS will coordinate with ISCS RMTN Member States as activities progress, and will notify each Member well in advance of scheduled activities.

NOAA is pleased to notify you that cost sharing of the ISCS RMTN satellite space segment will cease. The only cost associated with the system for the Member States will be equipment maintenance. Selection of the maintenance service provider for the satellite receiver equipment and the digital terrestrial circuit equipment is at the discretion of the individual Member State. This may reduce costs for your site.

Member States are invited to meet with the NOAA Team by conference call on **October 22, 2009, at 2pm-3pm eastern daylight time** for a brief overview of the coming transition. Please notify the ISCS Program Lead, Pat Gillis (Patrick.gillis@noaa.gov), by October 16, 2009, if you plan to participate in the conference call. For security reasons, the passcode will be required to join the call, and toll free numbers are available for the countries below. Other countries not listed below may coordinate with Jennifer.Lewis@NOAA.gov to arrange to have an operator link your team to the call.

Conference call information - Passcodes/Pin codes:

Participant passcode: 4103452

Dial in numbers:

Country	Toll Numbers	Freephone/ Toll Free Number
ARGENTINA		0800-444-1896
BRAZIL		0800-7610645
CHILE		1230-020-5992
		10800-120-2420
COLOMBIA		01800-9-157003
DENMARK	45-7014-0293	8088-2749
FINLAND	Land Line: 106-33-206	0-800-9-19768
FINLAND	Mobile: 09-106-33-206	0-800-9-19768
FRANCE	LYON: 33-4-26-03-51-63	080-510-2765
FRANCE	MARSEILLE: 33-4-86-06-48-63	080-510-2765
FRANCE	PARIS: 33-1-72-25-40-66	080-510-2765
GERMANY	49-69-2222-4865	0800-800-1421
ITALY	39-02-3604-6280	800-977-455
MEXICO		001-866-944-7679
PANAMA		011-001-800-5072372
PERU		0800-53731
PORTUGAL		8008-14928
SPAIN	34-91-414-21-70	800-300-907
SWEDEN	46-8-503-34-825	0200-899-946
SWITZERLAND	41-44-580-4321	0800-001-427
UNITED KINGDOM	BIRMINGHAM: 44-121-210-9183	0808-238-9817
UNITED KINGDOM	GLASGOW: 44-141-202-0813	0808-238-9817
UNITED KINGDOM	LEEDS: 44-113-301-0013	0808-238-9817
UNITED KINGDOM	LONDON: 44-20-7950-1322	0808-238-9817
UNITED KINGDOM	MANCHESTER: 44-161-601-0113	0808-238-9817
URUGUAY		000-413-598-3832
USA	1-203-607-0666	877-951-7311
VENEZUELA		0800-1-00-3644

Please accept our sincere appreciation for your continuing participation in the ISCS RMTN.