

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION



Radiocommunication Bureau

B.R.	21 JUL 2008

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Time:

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To: ITU Member States

Fax:

From: Y. Henri, Head SSD

For your reply:

Officially reply to:

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Queries to:

E-Mail: yvon.henri@itu.int; Tel: +41 22 730 5536

Subject: Request for assistance from the United Arab Emirates Administration

Dear Sir,

1. The Radiocommunication Bureau has received a request from the United Arab Emirates Administration for assistance with regard to the risk of physical collision between the "Thuraya-3" satellite - operating on the assigned frequencies of the Emarsat-4S satellite network, which is located at 98.5° East - and the ProtoStar-1 satellite.
2. From information provided by the United Arab Emirates Administration, it appears that the ProtoStar-1 satellite, successfully launched on 7 July 2008, will be positioned at 98.35° East for the In-Orbit Testing (IOT) and then eventually moved to a location situated at 98.45° East for service operations. Taking into serious account this information, the United Arab Emirates Administration has informed the Bureau of its critical concerns about the serious risk of physical collision that could exist between these satellites.
3. At this stage, the Bureau has received no information concerning the associated ITU satellite network filing, or the responsible administration under which the ProtoStar-1 satellite will be brought into use and operated. Indeed, the satellite network filing ST-1B-CK of the Administration of Singapore whose frequency assignments were originally to be brought into use by the ProtoStar-1 satellite, shall be suppressed under the provisions of No. 11.44 of the Radio Regulations following the confirmation by the Administration of Singapore that the frequency assignments of the network were not brought into use within the required regulatory period.
4. The Bureau is extremely concerned and alarmed to be the witness of a situation in which a satellite, in this case ProtoStar-1, could be operated in contravention of the ITU Constitution, particularly No. 196, and No. 18.1 of Article 18 on Licences of the Radio Regulations, and this without a responsible Administration and by an unknown operating agency not duly authorized by an ITU member State. Furthermore, the Bureau is also worried about possible cases of harmful interference that may be caused by the ProtoStar-1 satellite to frequency assignments of satellite networks or stations of terrestrial services duly recorded in the Master International Frequency Register and the impossibility for the Bureau to apply Section IV of Article 15 of the Radio Regulations for the settlement of the problem.

5. In view of the above, the Bureau would be grateful for any information your Administration is able to provide regarding an authorization for the IOT, which should include an authorization for the operation of the involved TT&C earth stations, as well as an authorization for the further operation of the payload. The Bureau would also be grateful for any information on the associated ITU filings, if any.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Y. Henri', written over a horizontal line.

Y. Henri
Head Space Services Department