



Radiocommunication Bureau

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Circular Letter
6/LCCE/52

9 December 2005

**To Administrations of Member States of the ITU and Radiocommunication Sector Members
and ITU-R Associates participating in the work of Radiocommunication Working
Parties 6A, 6E, 6M, 6J, 6Q, 6S, Task Group 6/9 of Study Group 6**

Subject: Study Group 6 “*Electronic News Gathering*” Seminar, (Geneva, 8 March 2006)

ITU-R Study Group 6 is organizing an “Electronic News Gathering” Seminar. The event will take place on March 8 2006 (from 09:00 to 17:00 hours.), in the framework of the scheduled block meetings of Study Group 6 (see Circular Letter 6/LCCE/51 of 2 December 2005 and Administrative Circular CACE/370 of 19 December 2005). The presentations will be in English.

Annex 1 is including an invitation letter from the Chairman of Study Group 6 and Annex 2 shows the draft programme for the seminar as approved at the last meeting of Working Party 6P.

Participants in the various ITU-R Working Parties and Task Group meetings being held in Geneva at this time will not be required to register separately for the seminar. Individuals not participating in the Working Parties and Task Group meetings are required to register as members of delegations attending the scheduled block of meetings. The registration of delegates will start at 08:30 hours, **in the Montbrillant building only (all delegates should enter the building exclusively through this entrance)** on 8 March 2006.

Information on hotels in the Geneva area for seminar participants and attendees is provided on the ITU web site at <http://www.itu.int/travel/index.html>.

We would remind you that citizens of some countries are required to obtain a visa in order to enter and spend any time in Switzerland. The visa must be requested and obtained from the office (embassy or consulate) representing Switzerland in your country or, if there is no such office in your country, from the one that is closest to the country of departure. If problems are encountered, the Union can, at the official request of the administration or company you represent, approach the competent Swiss authorities in order to facilitate delivery of the visa.

Visa requests should be made via an official covering letter from the administration or company you represent. This letter must specify your name and function, date of birth, passport number as well as the date of issuance and expiration. The letter must be accompanied by a photocopy of your

passport and completed registration form and must be sent by fax to the ITU-R Document and Meetings Unit, Office V.434, Attention: Mrs. L. Kocher. The fax number is +41 22 730 6600. Please note that the Union needs at least one week to process all papers required for the delivery of a visa.

Valery Timofeev
Director, Radiocommunication Bureau

Annex 1: Invitation Letter from the Chairman

Annex 2: Preliminary Programme of the Electronic News Gathering Seminar

Distribution:

- Administrations of Member States and Radiocommunication Sector Members participating in the work of Radiocommunication Working Parties 6A, 6E, 6M, 6J, 6Q, 6S, Task Group 6/9 and Radiocommunication Study Group 6
- ITU-R Associates participating in the work of Radiocommunication Study Group 6
- Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of Radiocommunication Study Group 6
- Secretary General of the ITU, Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau, Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

ANNEX 1

To the participants in the work of ITU-R Study Group 6

I am glad to confirm that an “Electronic News Gathering” Seminar will take place on March 8 2006 (from 09:00 to 17:00 hours.), in the framework of the scheduled block meetings of Study Group 6 (see Circular Letter 6/LCCE/51 of 2 December 2005 and Administrative Circular CACE/370 of 19 December 2005).

I would like to cordially invite you to attend this event aimed to develop international cooperation and recognition of the activities of ITU-R toward completion of the studies on Recommendation **723 (WRC-03)**.

WRC-03 identified in Recommendation **723 (WRC-03)** that the ITU-R should continue the studies into radio-frequency spectrum usage and operational requirements for terrestrial Electronic News Gathering (ENG) as a matter of urgency. It further recommends these studies of the technical, operational and radio-frequency issues of ENG should be undertaken on a global basis.

The first Conference Preparatory Meeting (CPM06-1) for the WRC-07 nominated Working Party 6P* as the responsible Working Party for the implementation of Recommendation **723 (WRC-03)** “Spectrum usage and operational characteristics of terrestrial electronic news gathering systems”. Working Party 6P has been undertaking these studies using a variety of techniques to collect information for inclusion in a report and other documentation for the Conference Preparatory Meeting in 2007:

- A questionnaire to identify the use of the radio-frequency spectrum for the temporary portable TV links for the terrestrial electronic news gathering (ENI), news outside broadcast (NOB), television outside broadcast (TVOB) and broadcast auxiliary services (BAS) was developed. This information is to be used to estimate whether it is feasible to, and to what extent, worldwide harmonization of user requirements may be achievable in terms of the equipment, systems and radio-frequency bands used for such services, including the identification of specific radio-frequency band(s).
- A Rapporteur was appointed (Mr R. Bunch - Australia) to develop where appropriate ITU-R Reports and/or Recommendations addressing the different technical and operational characteristics of terrestrial ENG applications.
- The Rapporteur for Terrestrial Electronic News Gathering has collated from administrations a Draft New Report on Terrestrial spectrum usage and operational requirements for Electronic News Gathering.

As you may see by the attached preliminary programme, the event has provided for presentations from ITU-R Sector Members, regional bodies, broadcasting unions, national regulatory agencies and broadcasting equipment manufacturers to discuss user requirements and spectrum usage for terrestrial electronic news gathering.

* Currently Working Party 6J

The presentation of television news has become an important part of every day life within many administrations. The ITU has played an important role in developing many of these technologies and the spectrum related measures to encourage international coordination of frequencies used by Terrestrial Electronic News Gathering.

Study Group 6 invites your attendance at this ITU-R Seminar. Administrations, Sector Members and organizations interested in participating in the seminar should contact the Rapporteur for Terrestrial Electronic News Gathering as soon as possible.

The contact details are:

Contact:	Mr Roger Bunch	Tel: +61 2 8968 7100
	Rapporteur for Terrestrial	Fax: +61 2 9969 3520
	Electronic News Gathering	E-mail: rbunch@freetvaust.com.au
	Free TV Australia	
	44 Avenue Road	
	MOSMAN NSW 2081	
	Australia	

I hope to see you all at this special Study Group 6 event.

A. Magenta
Chairman, Study Group 6

ANNEX 2

ITU-R Study Group 6 ELECTRONIC NEWS GATHERING SEMINAR

(8 March 2006, ITU, Geneva, Switzerland)

Introduction

In many administrations terrestrial electronic news gathering has emerged as the primary delivery method of news to the general public. The advances in television news coverage over the lifetime of television has led to a high level of expectation on the part of the consumer for a comprehensive and instant coverage of news events on television.

In many instances material goes “live to air”, a factor which demands the certainty of an interference free radio-frequency spectrum channel for the duration of the event. The television viewing population have increased considerably since the present radio-frequency spectrum allocations for terrestrial ENG were identified. This has produced the twofold effect of increasing the probability of occurrence of news worthy events whilst also increasing the number of camera crews, vehicles and hence radio-frequency spectrum transmission channels which are needed to cover wider areas.

The public interest is served by live news coverage of breaking events, especially disasters or potential disasters affecting public safety and national security. The public is also served by broadcasters’ increasing use of a visual intimacy and immediacy in such things as medical news, disaster reporting, and sporting events that can only be delivered via non-wired technologies such as live point-of-view (POV) cameras.

To serve their audiences, broadcasters embrace technologies that were not even anticipated when spectrum-usage regulations and operational techniques for ENG were originally developed. While there is a continuing increase in demand for the quantity and quality of coverage of outside events which television organizations/networks are required to provide, this increase in demand must be met often from within the same radio-frequency spectrum resource and operational techniques justified on the basis of the requirements developed several decades ago.

Administrations have posed two Questions in ITU-R for the future development of Terrestrial Electronic News Gathering:

User requirements for electronic news gathering (Question ITU-R 89-1/6)

- a) What are the user requirements peculiar to ENG operation, in terms of:
 - received picture quality;
 - received sound quality;
 - latency;
 - number of sound channels;
 - transmission channel bandwidth,
 - transmission equipment size, weight, power consumption, reliability, etc.;
 - talkback facilities, etc.?
- b) Which are the technical means to be recommended in order to meet the user requirements peculiar to ENG operation?

- c) How do those user requirements translate in terms of expected performance in the delivery of ENG news coverage:
- by physical delivery of recorded ENG video cassettes;
 - by transmission of the signal over portable microwave links;
 - by injection of the signal in a telecommunication network?

Frequency requirements for electronic news gathering (Question ITU-R 93/6)

- a) What are the frequency requirements for ENG links?
- b) What are the most suitable frequency bands for the operation of ENG links?
- c) What are the technical and operational factors affecting the choice of frequency bands for ENG links?
- d) What sharing criteria should be recommended to ensure compatibility with other services sharing the same band?
- e) Whether it is possible to identify a preferred ENG designation worldwide?

Study Group 6 has decided to invite ITU-R Sector Members, regional bodies, broadcasting unions, national regulatory agencies and broadcasting equipment manufacturers to provide presentations on user requirements and spectrum usage for terrestrial electronic news gathering.

Date and venue

The Electronic News Gathering Seminar sponsored by ITU-R Study Group 6, will be presented on Wednesday 8 March 2006 at the ITU, Room H (Montbrillant Building), in Geneva, Switzerland from 09:00 to 17:00 hours.

Attachment: Preliminary Seminar Programme

Attachment



**Preliminary ITU Seminar Programme
Spectrum usage and user requirements for
TERRESTRIAL ENG/TVOB/BAS/SAB
Recommendation 723 (WRC-03)**

**Geneva,
Switzerland
8 March 2006**

Preliminary programme	
Opening	
0900-0930 hrs	Welcome and opening address
SESSION 1: Introduction to ITU-R	
0930-1030 hrs	History of ITU-R, World Radiocommunication Conference programme and WRC agenda item 7.1
1030-1045 hrs	Coffee break
SESSION 2: Status of electronic news gathering and TV outside broadcast technology	
1045-1200 hrs	ENG/TVOB/BAS/SAB in the global scene Regional and international development of ENG and OB systems: Regional Case Studies: Regions 1, 2 and 3
1200-1230 hrs	Questions and answers
1230-1400 hrs	Lunch break
SESSION 3: ENG/TVOB/BAS/SAB systems standardization	
1400-1600 hrs	Standards development for ENG/TVOB/BAS/SAB systems • User requirements
1600-1615 hrs	Coffee break
SESSION 4: Regulatory aspects of ENG/TVOB/BAS/SAB	
1615-1715 hrs	Spectrum regulations for ENG/TVOB/BAS/SAB • Spectrum usage and frequency requirements
Panel discussion	
1715-1745 hrs	Harmonization of spectrum usage and users requirements of ENG/TVOB/BAS/SAB systems • User requirements • Spectrum usage
Closing	
1745-1800 hrs	Closing address and Seminar closing