



Circular-Letter
CR/110

4 December 1998

To Administrations of Member States of the ITU

Subject: Implementation of Resolution 30 (WRC-97)

To the Director General

1. The World Radiocommunication Conference, Geneva, 1997 has, by Resolution 30 (WRC-97), resolved to replace the current publication of the Weekly Circulars and the Special Sections by CD-ROM format and instructed the Director of the Bureau, among other things, to initiate its introduction. This Circular-letter describes the activities of the Bureau in response to Resolution 30(WRC-97), with a particular emphasis on the salient features of the Terrestrial CD-ROM Publication. The issues related to the Space CD-ROM Publication will be subject of a separate Circular-letter.

2. As you are aware, currently the Weekly Circulars are being published in paper, microfiche and diskette forms. Additionally, the International Frequency List on CD-ROM (IFL on CD-ROM) and SRS on CD-ROM are published every six months and Frequency Assignment Plans on CD-ROM (Plans on CD-ROM) every year. Consequent to the above decisions of the Conference, all these publications will be replaced by a single, bi-monthly publication on CD-ROM and the existing publications in other formats will then be discontinued on successful completion of tests.

3. The Bureau completed the conceptual design of the new publication, and, in view of the large volume of the data, it decided to structure the new publication in two separate parts: 'Terrestrial CD-ROM' and 'Space CD-ROM'. The new publication will also contain a common Index of all frequencies from the Terrestrial and the Space services, as well as a continuously updated *Preface* (formerly Preface to the International Frequency List, the Space Radiocommunication stations on CD-ROM and the Weekly Circular), initially in Microsoft Help format. The salient features of the "Terrestrial CD-ROM publication" are given in Annex 1 to this Circular-letter.

4. In a parallel activity, for some time now, the Bureau has been in the process of modernizing its information systems including moving from the current Frequency Management System (FMS), using a mainframe computer, to a client-server configuration using PCs and relational data bases under the **Terrestrial Radiocommunication System (TerRaSys)**. The final design of the new database, comprising all terrestrial radiocommunication services, was completed recently and the Bureau is now in the process of transferring the relevant operations under the TerRaSys. The first phase, which involves television and VHF sound broadcasting, will be operational in 1999 (see Circular-letter CR/99), and will be followed by LF/MF broadcasting and then by remaining services.

5. In view of the above, and in order not to duplicate the development activities, the Bureau decided to use the TerRaSys structure for the new Terrestrial CD-ROM publication. Therefore, as the submission of notices by administrations and their processing by the Bureau will continue under FMS until the relevant phase is transferred to TerRaSys, the users of the new publication will have to deal with two different structures.

6. In accordance with “*resolves 4*” of Resolution 30(WRC-97), activities on the testing of the new publication was to commence at the beginning of October 1998, with a view to completing the testing phase by 1 January 1999. However, the Bureau was not in a position to maintain this target date, for various reasons. For the moment, the Bureau is able to offer the testing of the new Terrestrial CD-ROM publication with partial data (limited to the portions of the database relating to the broadcasting services, in the LF, MF, VHF and UHF bands). Such a version would give opportunity to administrations to test some features of the user interface and to familiarize themselves with the TerRaSys structure. During the demonstration of this version of the new publication, at the recent BR Seminar (28 September - 2 October 1998), many participants indicated their interest in such testing. In pursuance of such requests, the Bureau wishes to advise your administration that such a possibility now exists and, if your administration is interested in testing this partial version of the Terrestrial CD-ROM, then you may contact the Bureau for a free copy (contact person Mr. P. Natarajan, phone +41 22 730 5535, fax +41 22 730 5785, email: natarajan@itu.int).

7. Information on the further developments in this respect will be communicated in the near future. However, the publication of the Weekly Circular under its current form, i.e. paper, microfiche and diskettes, will be maintained throughout 1999.

The Bureau remains at the disposal of your administration for any further clarifications you may need in this respect.

Yours faithfully,

Robert W. Jones
Director, Radiocommunication Bureau

Distribution:

- Administrations of Member States of the ITU
- Members of the Radio Regulations Board

Annex: 1

Annex 1

SALIENT FEATURES OF THE “TERRESTRIAL CD-ROM PUBLICATION”

1. The Terrestrial CD-ROM will contain: the IFL on CD-ROM, Plans on CD-ROM, Special sections associated with the Plans and all notices under treatment (transactions in process, TIP, which correspond to transactions published in Parts 1, 2 and 3 of the current Weekly Circulars). In addition it will also incorporate a continuously updated version of the inquiry software (***TerRaQ***) to use the new CD-ROM publication. All of the TIP previously published in earlier circulars will continue to appear in the bi-monthly CD-ROM publication until the corresponding assignments/allotments are recorded in the Master Register and the Plan and these are updated. Once this publication is in full production, the current publications namely, Weekly Circulars (weekly), IFL on CD-ROM (bi-annually) and Plans on CD-ROM (annually) will be discontinued.
2. The new terrestrial CD-ROM publication will use TerRaSys structure for FM/TV, LF/MF and other services. For some time, until all the phases of TerRaSys are put into production completely, the new publication will contain the assignments in the TerRaSys structure, while the Bureau will continue to require the submission of notices and process them in the current format (FMS format).
3. When a TerRaSys phase is implemented fully (e.g., as from 1 April 1999 for television and VHF sound broadcasting), the Bureau will accept notices for the services governed by the relevant TerRaSys phase, *only* in TerRaSys format.
4. In the transitional phase, until the full implementation of the TerRaSys, the Bureau will convert, from FMS format into TerRaSys format, the assignments recorded in the Master Register, the Plans and TIP databases, with a view to include them in the new publication. However, the new publication may not reflect appropriately the FMS version of the Master Register, the Plans and TIP databases, as some records may not be transferred into the TerRaSys format. Additionally, as the TerRaSys publication will extract the relevant databases at the end of a week while the current cut-off day for the production of a Weekly circular is Tuesday, the two databases may differ in contents during the test period. For official purposes, administrations should refer to the Weekly Circulars in the current formats only.
5. The hardware/software requirements for utilizing TerRaSys publication are given in Attachment 1.
6. The software package '***TerRaQ***' associated with the query, display, printing and exporting of the data on this CD-ROM will also be included in the Terrestrial CD-ROM publication in its latest updated version. This would permit the administrations to identify easily and extract to file particulars of assignments which are included in the latest publication (parts I, II and III) and the associated special sections (Sections A, B and C), by publication number and parts.
7. This Publication will handle multiple languages (English, French and Spanish). In the initial phase, the testing will be limited to the use of the English language only.
8. During this testing period of a minimum of three months, the normal weekly publication in the existing formats will continue. However, the CD-ROMs will be published only bi-monthly (corresponding to 2 weekly circulars). The Weekly Circulars will continue to be numbered in the usual manner until the CD-ROM replaces them, after which the bi-monthly CD-ROM will take over the standard sequential numbering.
9. In accordance with Resolution 30, an *index* of Parts I, II and III and the Special sections printed on paper will be provided to those Administrations requesting it.

Attachment 1 to ANNEX 1

Hardware/Software Requirements

1. The “Terrestrial CD-ROM publication” is designed to be used on a personal computer running on an Intel-based Windows NT Workstation, Version 4.0 or higher. Generally speaking, a Windows NT Workstation configured with Microsoft’s minimum requirements (mouse, CD-ROM reader, etc.) is sufficient for use with this publication. However, in addition to Microsoft’s minimum requirements, this publication requires a minimum of 24 megabytes of memory (RAM), with 32 megabytes recommended, and a minimum of two gigabytes of disk space reserved for this publication. Although this publication will work properly with a VGA monitor, as defined in Microsoft’s minimum requirements, the software associated with this publication provides for detailed graphics (such as maps showing the locations of selected assignments). Obtaining the full benefit of these detailed graphics will require a monitor with higher resolution.
2. As this Circular Letter is being published, this publication is still under development. It is therefore possible that the final version may have slightly different requirements, particularly concerning the amount of disk space which must be reserved for this publication.
3. It is to be noted that the disk space estimate is based on the current size of the Bureau’s data bases containing existing assignments and pending notices to add, modify, and suppress assignments. The required disk space will, of course, change as a function of the size of the data base, which depends on the number of notices received by the Bureau. It is to be further noted that these are requirements for *typical* users of this publication, and that requirements specific to individual users may be different. For example, if one wishes to extract many sub-sets of the data, additional disk space will be required to store these sub-sets. On the other hand, if one wishes to install the publication on a network server, then the disk space requirements apply once (to the server) rather than to each client which connects to the server to use the publication. In this regard, we note that the publication can be installed either in a stand-alone configuration on a single Windows NT Workstation, or in a client-server configuration.