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| **INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION** | |  | |
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|  | | **Addendum 3 to**  **Document RAG16/1-E** | |
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| Director, Radiocommunication Bureau | | | |
| report TO the twenty-third meeting of the radiocommunication advisory group | | | |
| Global Mobile Personal Communications by Satellite (GMPCS) | | | |

This Addendum presents a summary of the implementation of the GMPCS-MoU Arrangements and GMPCS-MoU Mark.

# 1 Introduction

A GMPCS system is a personal communication system providing transnational, regional or global coverage from a constellation of satellites accessible with small and easily transportable terminals. Whether the GMPCS satellite systems are geostationary or non-geostationary, fixed or mobile, broadband or narrowband, global or regional, they are capable of providing telecommunication services directly to end users. GMPCS services include two-way voice, fax, messaging, data and broadband multimedia. Detailed information on all aspects of GMPCS services, including reference materials, covering regulatory, technical, operational and commercial considerations can be found in the [GMPCS Reference Book](http://www.itu.int/publ/D-HDB-GMPCS-1999/en).

# 2 Role of the ITU

During the first [World Telecommunication Policy Forum](http://www.itu.int/pforum/) (WTPF) held in Geneva in October 1996, 129 ITU Member States and 70 Sector Members addressed the policy and regulatory issues concerning the early introduction of GMPCS services. The WTPF produced five opinions on the principles and issues related to the introduction of GMPCS services.

Opinion No. 2 called for Administrations to facilitate the early introduction of GMPCS services and to cooperate internationally in developing and harmonizing policies to facilitate the introduction of GMPCS.

Opinion No. 4 recognized that because some GMPCS systems were already in operation and others would be brought into operation as early as 1998, urgent action was needed to facilitate the global circulation and trans-border roaming of terminals. Opinion No. 4 also recognized that the early introduction of GMPCS services would be facilitated by a commonly agreed upon GMPCS Memorandum of Understanding (GMPCS-MoU) to be used as a framework for arrangements to facilitate the global circulation and trans-border roaming of GMPCS terminals.

After the WTPF, the Secretary-General of the ITU convened an Informal Group of Administrations, GMPCS operators, service providers and terminal manufacturers. Working with the support of the ITU General Secretariat, the Group finalized the [GMPCS-MoU](http://www.itu.int/en/gmpcs/Pages/MoUArrangements.aspx) and then it adopted the [GMPCS-MoU Arrangements](http://www.itu.int/en/gmpcs/Pages/MoUArrangements.aspx). These Arrangements provide a framework for type approval, simplified licensing, identification (marking), access to traffic data, and customs recommendations related to the free circulation of GMPCS terminals. Finally, the Group approved the procedures for the Implementation of the GMPCS-MoU Arrangements. Its main features are the notification and implementation procedures and a decision on the GMPCS-MoU Mark. Since then, the Arrangements and Procedures were revised on 7 June 2003.

In May 1998 the ITU Council adopted [Resolution 1116](http://www.itu.int/en/gmpcs/Pages/ITUSecretaryGeneral.aspx?RootFolder=%2Fen%2Fgmpcs%2FITU%20Secretary%20General%2FResolutions) authorizing the depository role of the ITU Secretary-General and the use of the Abbreviation "ITU" as part of the GMPCS-MoU Mark to facilitate the free circulation of GMPCS terminals. The ITU General Secretariat makes available the list of [GMPCS-MoU Signatories](http://www.itu.int/cgi-bin/htsh/mm/scripts/gd.list?_search=SIGNPARTYGMPCS), including [Administrations](http://www.itu.int/cgi-bin/htsh/mm/scripts/gd.list?_search=SIGNPARTYMEMBSTAT) (ITU Member States). It also maintains the [registry for type approval letters](http://www.itu.int/en/gmpcs/Pages/Administrations.aspx?RootFolder=%2Fen%2Fgmpcs%2FAdministrations%2FTerminal%5FType%5FApprovals) used by Administrations and/or Competent Authorities (any organization competent for regulatory issues addressed in the Arrangements) to approve terminals that are notified to the ITU, and for terminal types once Administrations and/or Competent Authorities have notified the ITU that terminals have been granted type approval. The ITU General Secretariat updates the implementation of the GMPCS-MoU Arrangements. This information provides:

* a list of entities implementing the Arrangements either in full or in part;
* a list of GMPCS systems authorized in each country;
* a list of the [GMPCS terminals registered at the ITU](http://www.itu.int/en/gmpcs/Pages/GMPCSSearch.aspx) indicating their status in each country.

# 3 Type approval of terminals

Type Approval is the process through which the conformity of GMPCS terminals with regulatory technical requirements is assessed. These technical requirements are mainly intended to ensure that GMPCS terminals do not harm networks, GMPCS users, other users, or other equipment. A variety of procedures (ranging from obligatory third party testing to manufacturer's declaration) may be in place.

GMPCS terminals are required to meet the following requirements (hereinafter referred to as "essential requirements"):

* 1. Safety;
  2. Electromagnetic compatibility (EMC); and
  3. Effective use of the radio spectrum and orbital resources, including consideration of electromagnetic interference (EMI) aspects.

Compliance with the above essential requirements may be demonstrated, at the discretion of the relevant Administration and/or Competent Authority, by conformity to appropriate ITU‑R Recommendations, international, regional, or national standards, or technical specifications. Examples are Recommendations ITU-R M.1343-1 “Essential technical requirements of mobile earth stations for global non‑geostationary mobile-satellite service systems in the bands 1-3 GHz” and ITU-R M.1480 “Essential technical requirements of mobile earth stations of geostationary mobile-satellite systems that are implementing the Global Mobile Personal Communications by Satellite (GMPCS) – Memorandum of Understanding Arrangements in parts of the frequency band 1-3 GHz”.

# 4 Licensing of terminals

Administrations and/or Competent Authorities that have implemented the Arrangements are recommended not to require individual licenses for GMPCS terminals, provided that:

a) these terminals operate within the frequency bands identified for such use by the Administration and/or Competent Authority in question;

b) the GMPCS service, with which the GMPCS terminals operate, has been legally authorized if required, pursuant to national laws and/or regulations;

c) the transmissions from the GMPCS terminals are under the operational control of the GMPCS System Operator and/or the GMPCS Service Provider;

d) the GMPCS terminals meet the relevant essential requirements in the Arrangements; and

e) necessary measures are taken to avoid harmful interference between services.

Administrations and/or Competent Authorities implementing the Arrangements are recommended to allow the circulation and use of GMPCS terminals, either single mode (operating with only one GMPCS system) or multimode (operating with a GMPCS system and, additionally, one or more other GMPCS systems or terrestrial mobile systems), provided that the GMPCS terminals have been demonstrated to meet the essential requirements in the Arrangements, as may be indicated by the presence of the GMPCS-MoU Mark or another recognized mark.

# 5 The GMPCS-MoU Mark

The GMPCS-MoU Mark is a mark agreed upon by the Signatories of the GMPCS-MoU that may be affixed on GMPCS terminals pursuant to the Arrangements. Marking of GMPCS terminals is critical to facilitating the circulation of the terminals across national borders, and thus ensuring seamless and reliable GMPCS service for all end-users. The use of the GMPCS-MoU Mark does not in any way imply a global type approval by the ITU.

The GMPCS-MoU Mark consists of the following text, in English only: the letters “GMPCS-MoU”, followed by the abbreviation “ITU”, followed by the word “Registry”. The format of this registry mark has been defined by the ITU Secretary-General in consultation with the representatives of the Signatories (see Figure 1). The ITU has protected the abbreviation “ITU” under the Paris Convention and must therefore authorize the use of the abbreviation for the purpose of the GMPCS-MoU Mark. Agreements were prepared and executed to ensure that the terms and conditions under which the ITU will authorize the use of its abbreviation are understood and agreed to by operators and manufacturers. These agreements include the rights, obligations, liabilities and responsibilities of all relevant parties, as well as a dispute settlement mechanism.

**Figure 1 The GMPCS-MoU Mark**



# 6 Management of the GMPCS MoU project

In May 2011, the former Secretary-General requested that the Legal Affairs Unit take over from the Strategic Planning and Membership Department the management responsibilities concerning the GMPCS MoU project.

Recently, the Legal Affairs Unit has noticed an increasing number of technical questions/issues raised associated to requests for registration of GMPCS terminals and the implementation of the GMPCS-MoU, which imply an increasing need for technical consultations with BR/SGD in order to properly treat the above mentioned requests.  Moreover, recent technological developments/emerging technologies with regard to satellite terminals/systems may have an impact in the scope and future/global management of the GMPCS project, with a possible/potential enlargement of its initial scope/field of application to cover additional satellite systems and operational conditions.

In view of the above, the management of the GMPCS MoU project was transferred to BR/SGD. The Legal Affairs Unit remains available in case of required legal advice. The related software/database and financial support functions continue to be provided by the Information Service and Financial Resource Management Departments, respectively.

The steps to register a new terminal type are described in Chapter 2, Section I, Paragraph 8 of the “[Arrangements pursuant to the GMPCS-MoU to facilitate the introduction and development of Global Mobile Personal Communications by Satellite (GMPCS) & Procedures for notification & implementation of the Arrangements](http://www.itu.int/en/gmpcs/Pages/MoUArrangements.aspx)” of 7 June 2003 (Arrangements & Procedures).

The Secretary-General receives the following implementation letters:

* GMPCS system operator’s letter;
* GMPCS terminal manufacturer’s letter;
* Type approving Administration(s) letter.

After having analysed and confirmed that the procedures have been correctly implemented, the ITU Secretary-General sends an acknowledgment of receipt letter informing the GMPCS terminal manufacturer that all required letters have been received so that the manufacturer may affix the GMPCS-MoU Mark to the terminal.

In accordance with the Arrangements & Procedures, when a GMPCS terminal manufacturer notifies to the ITU a new terminal for the first time, it has to also sign and send to the ITU Secretary-General:

* the GMPCS-MoU;
* the GMPCS Terminal Manufacturer Authorization Agreement, referred to in § 5 above, to authorize the GMPCS terminal manufacturer to affix the abbreviation “ITU” as part of the GMPCS-MoU Mark to the terminals registered within ITU.

The ITU Secretary-General sends a letter to the GMPCS terminal manufacturer acknowledging the receipt of the original signed text of the GMPCS-MoU and also signs the GMPCS Terminal Manufacturer Authorization Agreement.

# 7 Number of registered terminals

The number of GMPCS terminals registered with the ITU per year is shown in the table below.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Year | Number of terminals |
| 2016 | 2 |
| 2015 | 4 |
| 2014 | 10 |
| 2013 | 6 |
| 2012 | 2 |
| 2011 | 4 |
| 2010 | 4 |
| 2009 | 6 |
| 2008 | 5 |
| 2007 | 3 |
| 2006 | 7 |
| 2005 | 3 |
| 2004 | - |
| 2003 | 2 |
| 2002 | 2 |
| 2001 | 2 |
| 2000 | 6 |
| 1999 | 12 |
| 1998 | 5 |

# 8 Conclusion

The implementation of the GMPCS-MoU Arrangements and GMPCS-MoU Mark has been very successful in facilitating the global circulation and trans-border roaming of GMPCS terminals and the early introduction of GMPCS services. The arrangements developed for type approval, simplified licensing, marking, access to traffic data, and customs recommendations related to the free circulation of GMPCS terminals have proved to be very effective.

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