

Regional workshop on planning of digital terrestrial broadcasting

Moscow, 21-24 September 2004

A regional workshop on planning of digital terrestrial TV networks was held in Moscow from 21 to 24 September 2004, to prepare the countries of central and eastern Europe, the CIS and the Baltic region for the second session of the Regional Radiocommunication Conference (RRC) for planning of the digital terrestrial broadcasting service in parts of Regions 1 and 3, in the frequency bands 174-230 MHz and 470-862 MHz.

In Resolution COM5/1 (RRC-04), the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau was instructed to organize information meetings or workshops during the intersessional period to provide assistance to the administrations in their preparations for the second session of RRC. The workshop described below was the first such event, organized in response to that Resolution; it was organized jointly by ITU's Radiocommunication Bureau and Telecommunication Development Bureau and by the Administration of the Russian Federation.

The workshop involved 11 presentations on different aspects of intersessional work, including technical bases, principles and methods of planning, and 9 practical exercises on the use of ITU software by administrations in preparing information for the Radiocommunication Bureau. In addition, there was a round-table discussion of some of the more important issues on those preparations in a number of countries within the planning zone. In all, 107 experts from 20 administrations and 9 different organizations attended the workshop. The workshop was held in Russian and English.

The workshop participants took note of the following.

- The relevance and timeliness of the workshop; participants consider that it will prove of great benefit for preparations for the second RRC session.
- The importance of the information presented for preparations for the second RRC session.
- That the basis for successful preparations for the second RRC session consists in the day-to-day work of ITU's Radiocommunication Bureau and Telecommunication Development Bureau, and the active participation of administration representatives in working groups and other ITU meetings.
- The practical importance of the exercises held and the great technical value of the presentations made:
 - o ITU Regional activities (N. Stankovic, BDT)
 - o Overview of RRC-04 results and intersessional work (A. Nalbandian, Armenia)
 - o Technical parameters and propagation model for planning (P. Hai, BR)
 - o Technical criteria for compatibility with other services (N. Vassiliev, BR)
 - o Reference Planning Concept, including planning configuration and networks (D. Botha, BR)
 - o Planning principles and approaches (D. Botha, BR)

- o Conversion of analogue assignments to digital allotments – the channel potential method (R. Beutler, Germany)
- o Planning software (D. Botha, BR)
- o Protection of other services in preparation of a Plan for digital broadcasting (V. Glushko and I. Zheltonogov, Geysler, Russia; and N. Vassiliev, BR)
- o Time schedule for intersessional activities (P. Hai, BR)
- o Reference situations and salient points for administrations in the RCC region (D. Botha, BR)

After hearing the presentations and examining questions concerning preparations for RRC-06, the workshop participants reached the following conclusions.

- Thorough preparations should be made for the second session, including preliminary coordination of input requirements for the planning of digital broadcasting.
- Use should be made of the results of ITU-R studies carried out pursuant to the resolutions adopted at RRC-04, in preparing proposals for the work of the second session.
- In view of the limited time available between the sessions, the following information should be prepared and forwarded to BR within the time limits established by the first session: requirements for digital broadcasting channels; those existing and planned broadcasting assignments that are not to be taken into account in the planning process; and those existing and planned assignments of other services that are to be taken into account in the planning process.
- The responses to the inquiries of the BR to the administrations should be sent promptly.
- Coordination of the lists of analogue stations of administrations falling within the extended planning area should be finalized.
- Regular consultation is needed with the Planning exercise team, through the points of contact named by administrations pursuant to Resolution COM5/1 of RRC-04.

The participants thanked the Administration of the Russian Federation, ITU's Radiocommunication Bureau and Telecommunication Development Bureau, and the speakers, and also the administration of the Moscow Technical University of Communications and Informatics (MTUCI) and the MTUCI's Excellence Centre for organizing the workshop.