

Exercise 1: GIMS Startup

Goal

Startup GIMS and check whether the reference database is installed correctly.

Introduction

GIMS is a software that is mainly used for the capture and display of graphical data relating to geostationary satellites. It is also possible to perform interactive PFD calculations.

This software is available

- on the **BRIFIC** DVDs are distributed every fortnight,
- on the GIMS Web page, <http://www.itu.int/en/ITU-R/software/Pages/gims.aspx>

The **installation** of GIMS from the BRIFIC DVD is effected by means of the installation programme contained in the BR_SOFT folder. Simply launch the setup.exe programme and follow the instructions.

Setup is obviously the same on all media but its behavior is somewhat different as regards the installation of the reference database REFDB available only on the BRIFIC DVD.

Therefore if you install GIMS from the Web you will not have access to this data.

It will however be easier to take this workshop if GIMS is properly configured and that a database is recognized as REFDB. Task 2 of this exercise will show you how to proceed.

Task 1: Startup GIMS

To launch GIMS,

- click on the Windows "Start" button,
- then navigate through the list of installed programmes until you reach the "**BR Space Applications**" folder.
- Select the GIMS folder and, lastly,
- click on the GIMS icon.

If you are using GIMS, or a new version of GIMS, for the first time, the online help page is automatically displayed.

Here you have an opportunity to click on the "**History of Changes**" link to view the latest changes made to the software. Otherwise, simply close the window (we will see later how to return to the online help).

If REFDB has never been installed you can ignore the error messages that may appear at startup. We address them in task 2.

Task 2: Setup REFDB

If you have not already installed GIMS from a BRIFIC DVD, here's how to configure REFDB as gsample.mdb, the database that is distributed with this tutorial.

- in the **Database** menu, click **REFDB Setup**.
- in the "Master REFDB Location", type the path to the folder that contains the file gsample.mdb
- Click "Apply" and then "OK"

The "Master REFDB Location" is where GIMS searches for REFDB. If this folder contains several databases supported by GIMS, the latest will be considered REFDB. In this workshop, we advise you not to save any new databases in that folder.

Task 3: Verify REFDB availability

All diagrams notified to the Radiocommunication Bureau are loaded into the reference database, **REFDB**, which is distributed **on the BRIFIC DVD only**.

GIMS seeks to make management of the REFDB as simple and transparent as possible. REFDB is copied onto your hard disk during the installation of GIMS and, if all has gone well, REFDB will be directly accessible from the first time you use GIMS.

If you see "REFDB" in the GIMS database toolbar at the top of the main window, REFDB has been correctly configured.

It is important to note that REFDB is a read-only database.