

INTERGOVERNMENTAL OCEANOGRAPHIC
COMMISSION (OF UNESCO)

WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION

ARGOS JOINT TARIFF AGREEMENT

JTA-36/DOC. 10

THIRTY SIXTH SESSION

ITEMS: 2,3,7,9,10

La Jolla, USA
26-28 OCT. 2016

ENGLISH ONLY

**REPORT OF THE 14th JTA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
(Abu Dhabi, UAE, April 24-26 2016)**

(Submitted by Mr. Eric Locklear, JTA Chairman, the USA)

Summary and purpose of the document

This document includes the report of the Fourteenth meeting of the JTA Executive Committee, which was held in Abu Dhabi, UAE, from 24 to 26 April 2016

ACTION PROPOSED

The Meeting will be invited to comment, and particularly make decisions or recommendations, as appropriate, on the following topics:

- a) Note and comment on the information contained in this document; and
- b) Take into account the contents of the report when discussing relevant agenda items.

Appendix 1: Report of the 14th JTA Executive Committee meeting, Abu Dhabi, UAE, 24-26 April 2016.

**REPORT OF THE FOURTEENTH MEETING OF THE
JTA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (JTA-EC-14)**
ABU DHABI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
24-26 APRIL 2016

Participants:

Members, JTA-EC:

- Eric Locklear (Chair, JTA-EC, USA)
- Kim Holland (USA, EC)
- Salim Javed (UAE, EC)
- Holly Lourie (Australia, ROC)
- Johan Stander (South Africa, vice-chair EC)
- Tom Gross (IOC) – ex-officio
- Yann Bernard (CLS France) – ex-officio
- Seema Owen (CLS America) – invited

1. ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING

The fourteenth Meeting of the Argos Joint Tariff Agreement (JTA) Executive Committee (JTA-EC-14) took place in Abu Dhabi, UAE, from 24-26, April, 2016.

Eric Locklear opened the official meeting of the JTA Executive Committee and thanked Salim Javed (UAE) for hosting the meeting at the Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi (EAD) and welcomed the participants. Eric acknowledged our new members of the JTA EC, Kim Holland (USA) and Holly Lourie (Australia) and welcomed them to the committee.

The chair introduced several amendments to the proposed agenda. The Committee adapted the agenda to the discussion. The final agenda for JTA-EC-14 is provided in Annex I.

2. REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE JTA

2.1 Overview of the JTA EC (LOCKLEAR)

The chair, Eric Locklear (USA), reported on the purpose of the JTA-EC and reiterated its role in administering the ToRs applying to the Joint Tariff Agreement (JTA). The chair emphasized the responsibility of the JTA to negotiate on a yearly basis fair, cost-effective and simple terms and conditions of the global agreement covering Argos user charges that are applicable to Argos programmes funded by national governments of WMO and IOC Members/Member states and/or other JTA approved organizations. The JTA originally grew out of a partnership between the USA and France. The JTA is now jointly administered by the WMO, IOC, OPSCOM and the Argos Users. The Operations Committee, OPSCOM, is primarily concerned with the instruments, ground array, 24/7 operations and CLS data management tasks. The Users are represented by the ROCs, however it remains a JTA-EC task to find ways to improve the participation of member states in JTA, by providing ROC representation at JTA sessions.

JTA-EC-14 2 #1 Action: The Canadian ROC (Keith Lennon DFO) is to be encouraged to attend the JTA-36. [Chair, JTA-36]

The chair discussed the role of the JTA in the SATCOM Forum. Cg-XVI requested the WMO Secretariat to approach the partner organizations, and coordinate with the Argos Joint Tariff Agreement (JTA) with the view to establish such a Forum during the next intersessional period. The proposal is open to all satellite data telecommunication systems used for the collection of environment data from remote platform to serve the needs of WMO, IOC, and FAO applications, e.g. Data Collection System (DCS) from geostationary meteorological satellites (e.g. EUMETSAT, NOAA/NESDIS, JMA), Inmarsat, Iridium, Argos, etc.

The WMO Seventeenth Congress approved the establishment of an International Forum of Users of Satellite Data Telecommunications Systems covering a wide user basis, and to address remote data communication requirements - including tariff negotiations as needed - for automatic environment observing systems coordinated through WMO and partner organizations such as IOC and FAO.

Aim of Satcom

To help “Bring the right data, in the right format, to the right people, at the right time for the right price,” where satellite communications are involved in at least one part of the process. Satcom will achieve this through bringing together representatives from Satcom users, Satcom network operators and those involved in the design, manufacture and sales of Satcom terminals.

Satcom Forum workshop

The aim of the 2016 Forum workshop will be to encourage on-going commitment and participation of stakeholders, to formally establish the Satcom Forum, including electing the Committee, adopt the working arrangements and to set in place a work plan.

Duration of workshop

It will be held simultaneously with the Meteorological Technology World Expo 2016 (Meteo Expo) in Spain. Satcom will be open to all Meteo Expo visitors and that the Forum will be in an adjacent building to TECO and Meteo Expo. Satcom be run over three days of Meteo Expo Tuesday 27 to Thursday 29 September 2016

This will provide JTA an opportunity to engage with various clients, stakeholders and possible users.

JTA-EC-14 2 #2 Action: The WMO SATCOM secretariat to be instructed to provide SATCOM Forum invitations to the JTA EC as ex-officio members of the SATCOM.

The public-private partnership of the JTA was discussed vis-à-vis the role of SATCOM members in the JTA. It is noted that only ROCs and RUGs are to be invited to JTA meetings where sensitive CLS information may be revealed. However, it was also noted that for the past few sessions the sensitive CLS information is delivered to the JTA only through the JTA chair's summary report and therefore sensitive CLS financial information will not be presented publicly. Due to this close association of the JTA tasks with the information reported at OPSCOM, it was recommended that the CLS representative to OPSCOM attend the JTA session.

JTA-EC-14 2 #3 Action: Invite CLS representative to attend both the OPSCOM and the JTA sessions. [Chair, May 2016]

The chair presented a strawman proposal for a new meeting structure of the JTA, as requested for the OPSCOM meeting June 7-9, 2016, Charleston South Carolina. The chair proposed biennial meetings of the JTA and JTA-EC, staggered on alternate years. This would provide cost savings

for all JTA members, while allowing review of the tariff on an annual basis, though changes would only become approved by the full JTA every other year. The EC noted that the original model of JTA RUGs as representatives of large user groups within countries is no longer valid as user groups have become smaller and much more numerous. Changes in the composition of the User groups are still unfolding rapidly. Therefore, the EC decided that more convenient meetings, with more flexibility in meeting locations and more often than biennially are required. The EC made a conscious decision to transform and become more representative of the user community. Under the new leadership this was accomplished with representatives of the wildlife community now in the majority on the EC.

3. THE ARGOS JTA PROPOSED STRATEGY FRAMEWORK

Johan Stander (South Africa) presented his work to compose an outline for a JTA strategy framework. Johan emphasized the need for a clear 5-10 year strategy to guide the JTA through future changes, including strategies to stimulate the market and bring back users who have left Argos. The EC was in agreement that a summary of the goals and methods of the JTA was needed. However, the length of the framework was questioned and many suggestions for the needs and contents of a shorter report were offered. It was decided that the Mission Statement (Annex XVII JTA-35) with some additional detailed information, and some graphics would serve the purposes well. The information could be presented as either powerpoint slides or as a JTA prospective document for distribution. Text should succinctly record and communicate the origins, goals and working methods of the JTA. The audience should receive answers to these questions:

- Why is the JTA here?
- What does the JTA do?
- How does the JTA do it?
- Why is the JTA important to me, a user?

These questions are summarized in the Mission Statement (Annex XVII JTA-35):

VISION

To provide a fair and affordable mechanism to monitor the environment.

MISSION

To ensure the sustainability of Argos, a global data collection and localization satellite system dedicated to studying and protecting the environment.

What does the JTA do?

Transparently negotiate the Argos tariffs for data collection, location, and processing for the environmental observation community; and influence the technological evolution of the Argos system to meet User needs

How does the JTA do it?

Provides a collaborative global forum between nations, user groups, and CLS within the WMO & IOC framework; and through a participative governance structure in accordance with the JTA Terms of Reference.

JTA-EC-14 3 #4 Action: A brief summary or PPT of the JTA strategy should be prepared for review at next JTA: (Stander & Chair, and EC for review; JTA-36)

4. FEEDBACK FROM THE 2015 NATIONAL REPORTS

The chair noted that gathering advice about the wildlife programmes for National Reports has been much more difficult than for the ocean and meteorological programs, because of the distributed small scale of many wildlife programmes and the lack of national agencies dedicated to the topic.

Therefore, targeting the wildlife users directly may be more successful to get their feedback. However, the UAE is an obvious exception to this observation.

5. REPORT ON THE 2015 GLOBAL AGREEMENT

Actual 2015 JTA numbers:

Yann Bernard presented the 2015 actual numbers of the global agreement. 48 nations are involved in the JTA and in terms of active PTTs wildlife is the biggest application with 63% but in terms of usage, ocean and meteorological programs are still first in 2015 with 60% of the PTT years. With 7.63 M€ (+11% compare to 2014) of Argos basic service incomes, 2015 is an exceptional year, mainly due to a higher number of active drifters in the GDP. Unfortunately, this high number is expected to decrease due to the recent announcement of the large programmes accelerated shift to Iridium. The large programmes goal is for only 20% of GDP to use Argos.

Five Year Plan including the Actual 2015 usage:

Following the presentation of the 2015 global JTA usage, Seema Owen presented the Five Year Plan including the Actual 2015 usage and the respective revenues for the Animals, Buoys & others, Floats and Fixed Stations categories. The original Five Year plan, in contrast to recent plans, included a gradual decrease of the Large Program usage. It was noted that in the 2015 the large programmes deployed more than anticipated Argos buoys resulting in additional income. Further discussions followed regarding the anticipated accelerated decline of the Large Program usage in the upcoming years within the Five Year plan. The 2015 usage results also highlighted a higher than expected usage for Wildlife applications. However, the increase in the Wildlife area would not compensate for the accelerated decrease in the Large Programs and this decline would significantly impact the future JTA revenues.

An updated Five Year Plan was presented with the modification in the projected usage to include an accelerated decline for the Large Programs and a slight increase for the wildlife applications. This plan would include the current Large Program discount rate through 2018 and a reduction of the price discount at the 600 PTT Years level in 2019. At this time, the updated JTA Five Year plan reflects the anticipation that wildlife tariffs will remain unchanged. This plan was endorsed by the JTA-EC members.

Discussion:

The chair presented slides used at previous a OPSCOM meeting to illustrate the CLS cost cascade: CLS > ARGOS > Science > Basic Services > JTA Expenses. This shows how the pie is sliced, but it does not provide details of the operating costs allocated to JTA Expenses. A cost recovery programme creates a tariff to cover the costs allocated. We know the costs recovered. Our task is to create a tariff which closely models the costs recovered.

The EC discussed the structure of the tariff in terms of A, B, timeslots and the other elements of the tariff calculations. The roles of A as a constant representing fixed costs and B as variable with different programmes was questioned as fixed costs incurred by CLS are what differ most between user groups. In 2004 the committee recommended to use fixed A and variable B. While the system is not perfect it was pointed out that the tariff is always a balance between fairness and marketing attractiveness. The Tariff should be fair, even if the equation is complicated. But it must be smart and user friendly to get new users, hold on to old ones and incentivize large programmes to remain invested in using the Argos System.

When to change the tariff is a primary question for the JTA. The presentation of the FYP revealed changes to the Accumulated Difference between costs and revenues, which is a good indicator of the need to change the Tariff. The revised five-year plan reveals the impact in the changes of usage patterns of Argos by the primary users. Because the USA decided to accelerate the deployment of its inventory of Argos drifters, a temporary increase in revenue was enjoyed for 2015. This is expected to drop rapidly as the GDP has a stated goal of only 20% of the array to use Argos by 2019, and maybe sooner. While tariff adjustments might be implemented to decrease the

impact on the Accumulated Difference, it was decided that we should not make an increased unit cost a deciding factor in the USA's future planning. The USA should be made to consider the risk avoidance and value added services of using Argos in their decisions. This decided the EC to present the extrapolations of the FYP in a positive light with the large programmes staying at their 900 rate if they maintain the array.

JTA-EC-14 5 #5 Action: Present the FYP with the expected accelerated decreased usage by the large programmes. [CLS, JTA-36]

JTA-EC-14 5 #6 Action: It was decided that, in the future JTA documents, B should be reported as euros/timeslots. [CLS, on-going]

JTA-EC-14 5 #7 Action: Formulations of different Tariff equations, should be considered in advance of development of the next Five Year plan. [CLS, EC-16]

6. REPORT ON THE DEVELOPMENT AND OPERATIONS OF CLS

Argos JTA 2016 context:

Yann Bernard (CLS France) presented the actual context of the Argos science activity that is the component of the JTA. Today, 2 main scientific applications are using Argos: wildlife tracking & Ocean/meteorological programs. Despite a decrease on the number terrestrial animals tracked by Argos, Wildlife tracking PTTs are growing 5% annually in average with around 8 000 active PTTs per month. But Argos is now facing new competitors like GSM or Iridium on some projects that could impact this increase. CLS is making following efforts to promote Argos in the wildlife tracking community: organize regional workshops (5 in 2016: Lima, Tokyo, Abu Dhabi, Toulouse and Hobart) federate Argos users to improve information exchanges (website, ArgosForum magazine, Youtube channel...) develop the Argos manufacturers network and improve the technology with the Argos-3/4 chipset integration plus the Argos-4 dedicated low output power bandwidth. For the ocean and meteorological applications, the switch to Iridium is increasing especially due to the DOD contract signed by NOAA. But Argos still has a future on this application for countries where Iridium is not allowed and as backup recovery system and for low power consumption platforms. Finally, CLS is working to develop educational program with Argos, Argonautica, which is a wonderful tool to interest the young generation on environmental issues.

Argos constellation status:

Yann Bernard presented the last update on the satellite constellation with the current constellation and the future plans. Today composed by 6 operational satellites displayed on 3 orbit plans. Despite the fact that the future of the Argos system is secured on 2 orbit plans, efforts have to be setup to find new flyers opportunities on the Early AM orbit. The Argos Alliance initiative, a global consortium to support a continued international investment for ongoing environmental data collection with Argos, has started to lobby the US Congress on the importance of a US commitment on a new satellite carrying an Argos instrument. Together the Argos Alliance will educate senate staff about the uniqueness of the Argos system, how ONLY Argos is critical to the research they do and why it is critical that NOAA launch updated CDARS (Cooperative Data and Rescue Services (Argos and SARSAT)) payloads in 2019 to ensure continuity of the services these systems provide. Also on CNES side, a Task Force has been created to find new space agencies cooperation, strengthen the position of Argos in Europe, lobby at ESA for a cooperation in the Copernicus program and evaluate new satellite technology solution for Argos.

It was pointed out that the usual conclusion that reduced land animal tracking usage was due to increased Iridium use is probably not valid for Canada, which has had large cuts to its wildlife tracking research budgets due to government funding cutbacks. However, without better data on Iridium usage it is hard to make conclusions. But it is inescapable that Iridium is cutting into ocean platforms usage. Some ocean platform usage of Argos cannot be transferred to Iridium due to national priorities (China, India, others).

The EC offered more marketing ideas. One suggestion was that risk assessments may benefit from an insurance policy Tariff. The unused id tariff adjustments serve this need, so an insurance policy tariff would only be a matter of marketing. Information concerning, not the attributes of Argos, but rather the additional cost incurred when using competing systems might be useful for marketing. As the value added Argos services are sometimes not valued appropriately by agencies, better communication to funding sources on this should be made.

7. REVIEW OF USER REQUIREMENTS AND ISSUES

The EC discussed some recently raised user requirements and issues, and appreciated that CLS has been responding to all such queries in a timely manner. The improvements in real-time and archived data access and the recycling of id's have pleased the users and satisfied a majority of the user requests. Individual issues, such as China's invoice request, have been dealt with through the mechanism of on-going support which CLS offers all users.

JTA-35 requested the JTA-EC to finalize the membership of the Technical Advisory Group on Wildlife Argos Applications (TAGW) and to make a proposal at the next JTA meeting. Salim Javed and Kim Holland responded that events have progressed on this issue along a different path. During the intersessional the wildlife tagging community met at the 5th Bio-logging Science Symposium (<http://bls5.scienceconf.org>) in Strasbourg, where after some discussion, the group decided to form a Biologging Society. An organizing committee, of which Kim Holland is a member, is writing a constitution for the society, and should be able to meet the requirement to be accepted as a RUG to the JTA, ie "it can fairly represent the overall consensus view of a significant Argos JTA user community" (JTA OP 3.3.1). The JTA-EC expects the efforts to establish the Biologging Society will offer one avenue for the wildlife community to nominate a RUG to attend JTA meetings as one of the representatives of the wildlife community. Therefore, the JTA-EC advises that the functions of the JTA TAGW can possibly be fulfilled by this community.

JTA-EC-14 7 #8 Action: Write a letter inviting the Biologging Society's input to JTA and inviting it to become a RUG. [K. Holland; JTA-36]

In a related discussion the EC considered that manufacturers could be given observer status at JTA meetings. A concern that too many would attend was voiced, but as the operating principles seem to allow observers to attend, this cannot be denied. However, observers are not allowed to voice concerns during sessions. Therefore, the EC suggested that manufacturer's issues could be submitted in advance to the chair, and the chair would then be able to invite manufacturers with a demonstrated interest in the work of the JTA.

JTA-EC-14 7 #9 Action: Chair of JTA-EC to request input to the JTA from manufacturers. CLS to aid by identifying manufacturers to address with this request. [Chair, JTA-36]

8. REVIEW OF THE STRUCTURE OF THE TARIFF AGREEMENT AND RELATED MATTERS

Johan Stander explained the value to developing countries of an end-to-end Entry Level kit designed with special tariff reductions to encourage and develop capabilities to participate in Argos supported activities. Yann Bernard put this topic to the board of CLS. CLS is not interested in introducing a tariff exception for an individual user group. CLS is already doing capacity development projects and implementing observing systems in some developing countries. CLS does not think that these aims are part of the JTA mandate. The EC agreed and proposed several other capacity development methods, some of which CLS is pursuing, including representing Argos at an upcoming United Nations / Kenya conference on Space Technology and Applications for wildlife management and protecting biodiversity, June 2016 Nairobi, Kenya.

JTA-EC-14 8 #10 Action: No special tariff will be enacted. However, the JTA-EC will suggest to the SATCOM Forum that capacity development should be an essential activity of the SATCOM. [J. Stander; Satcom Forum, Sept. 2016]

9. TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE 2017 GLOBAL AGREEMENT

As usual the chair and CLS will prepare this for the JTA-36.

The JTA-EC considered updating the Operating Principles to change the term of the JTA-EC members in order to better reflect a commitment to improve long term continuity of the JTA

10. FUTURE PLANS AND PROGRAMMES

No plans were proposed at JTA-EC-14.

11. REVIEW OF THE OPERATING PRINCIPLES

activities. The term duration of the chair and vice chairs was increased from two to three years and were allowed to serve for two subsequent terms, instead of one. Quarterly teleconferences with the EC were introduced to improve fulfillment of action items. The term duration of EC members was increased from two years to three, with the possibility of three terms. The JTA-EC agreed not to alter the scheduling of JTA sessions in the operating principles. The chair introduced a ROC and RUG package of steps to formalize the procedure for establishing and confirming ROCs and RUGs. The chair will provide text to the OP including the JTA Mission Statement drafted at the JTA-35. A sample JTA-EC agenda and revisions of the JTA-EC workplan were also submitted. These alterations of the Operating Principles are recorded and highlighted in a draft Operating Principles which will be put to the JTA-36 for approval.

12. REVIEW OF ACTION ITEMS

The meeting reviewed action items from past JTA Sessions (see Annex III). The meeting decided to recommend the JTA transfer ongoing actions to the JTA Operating Principles.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The EC examined issues concerning the longevity and continuity of the Argos system. The possibility of a NOAA funding gap reminds that the animal tracker community is heavily dependent upon the Argos. The wildlife community has no alternative to Argos, which is a strong argument for the maintenance of this government supported programme. The EC queried the CLS representatives concerning the recent purchase of a sizable minority share of the CLS corporation by a venture capital firm. The worry is that this new circumstance will result in competing interests within CLS to become more profit driven, and consequently could find that the support of a not-for-profit cost recovery programme is not in the interest of the shareholders. CLS explained that strong ties with the French space agency (CNES), defines the Argos programme and protects it from the rest of CLS, making it extremely unlikely that CLS could divest itself of Argos. In addition, the 30-year-old Argos programme is an important goodwill asset of CLS of value. Finally, continuity of the Argos system can be maintained even if the USA stopped supporting Argos, through partnerships with other space agencies.

The EC reaffirmed its interest in and support of the Argos Alliance activities lobbying for the continuity of the Argos programme.

13.1 User Presentation

The JTA-EC welcomed Ms Marina Antonopoulou Of the Emirates Wildlife Society, In association with the World Wide Fund for Nature. The presentation on her Marine Turtle Conservation Project focusing on the Hawksbill Turtle, highlighted the use of Argos tracking data to monitor the migration and foraging behavior of the turtles in the Gulf.

[pending contribution from Ms Antonopoulou]

This research is used to design protected areas and identify areas of concern for protection. The CLS representatives offered advice on new capabilities of the download services to provide data at different archive delays with additional environmental data. The CLS representatives suggested that Ms Antonopoulou publish the work in the Argos Forum magazine.

14. ELECTIONS

No elections to the JTA-EC are anticipated for JTA-36.

15. DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT MEETINGS:

The EC agreed that scheduling of future EC and JTA sessions should be arranged to take advantage of complementary meetings in such a manner as to minimize costs and maximize community involvement.

JTA 36 Meeting In La Jolla, California, 24-26 Oct. 2016

JTA EC 15 Meeting in La Jolla, California

JTA EC 16 Meeting TBD, normally April or May 2017

JTA 37 Meeting: tentatively scheduled for Oct. 2-4, 2017, to follow the Biologging Conference scheduled for 25-29 Sept. 2017 in Germany.

JTA EC 17 Meeting: to immediately follow JTA-37, as usual.

16. Review Draft EC 12 Report

The draft report of JTA-EC-14 was discussed. The draft report was approved with revisions. A final version will be provided by the Secretariat.

17. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

The chair thanked the Executive Committee for a substantive and effective meeting. The JTA-EC thanked the host, Salim Javed, for the excellent meeting facilities and activities.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 on April 26, 2016.

Annex I

JTA-EC-14 Agenda

DAY 1:

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- 1. ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING**
 - a. Opening of the meeting
 - b. Adoption of the agenda
 - c. Working arrangements
- 2. REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE JTA**
 - a. Overview of the JTA EC (LOCKLEAR)
 - b. Report on JTA Chair activities since the JTA-35 Meeting & Upcoming
- 3. THE ARGOS JTA PROPOSED STRATEGY FRAMEWORK**
- 4. FEEDBACK FROM THE 2015 NATIONAL REPORTS**
- 5. REPORT ON THE 2015 GLOBAL AGREEMENT**
- 6. REPORT ON THE DEVELOPMENT AND OPERATIONS OF CLS**
- 7. REVIEW OF USER REQUIREMENTS AND ISSUES**

DAY 2:

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- 8. REVIEW OF THE STRUCTURE OF THE TARIFF AGREEMENT AND RELATED MATTERS**
- 9. TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE 2017 GLOBAL AGREEMENT**
- 10. FUTURE PLANS AND PROGRAMMES**
- 11. REVIEW OF THE OPERATING PRINCIPLES**
- 12. REVIEW OF ACTION ITEMS**
- 13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**
- 14. ELECTIONS**
- 15. DATE AND PLACE OF THE NEXT MEETINGS:**
- 16. CLOSURE OF THE MEETING**

DAY 3

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PREPARE AND ISSUE FINAL REPORT

Annex II

List of participants

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ANNEX III – LIST OF ACTIONS

1. Status of open actions from previous JTA Sessions

No.	Ref. (agenda item)	Action/decision item	By whom	Deadline	Status
J34#06	JTA34/ 9.3	USA ROC should seek agreement to sign for a non-fixed rate, or pay in Euros	USA ROC	JTA-35	Open
J34#07	JTA34/ 9.4	Review the JTA tariff to ensure it is fair, equitable and simple with respect to currency conversion	JTA-EC	JTA-35	Recommend to Close
J34#08	JTA34/ 11.2	Representation of the wildlife community will be solicited, and the Wildlife Technical Advisory Group (WTAG) will be formed.	Chair WTAG	JTA-EC 12	Proposed to close: Kim Holland to be RUG Process: Form WTAG

2 – Status of open actions from previous JTA-EC meetings

No.	Ref.	Action item	By whom	Deadline	Comment
JEC9#2	JEC9/2	1200 threshold issue & Wildlife large programmes: Proposal to be prepared and presented by the JTA Chair in consultation with Salim Javed (UAE) and CLS at JTA-EC-10.	Task Team on Wildlife(& S. Javed)	JTA-35	Closed
JEC12#0 2		JTA chair to request of SATCOM chair an invitation to SATCOM meeting in Madrid 2016.	JTA Chair	Aug. 2015	Closed. Johan, CLS will be present at SATCOM 2016.

No.	Ref.	Action item	By whom	Deadline	Comment
JEC12#0 5b		The ATAG must apply for RUG status.	JTA Chair and K. Holland	JTA-35	Open
JEC13 #1	J35/2.3.6	JTA-EC to propose a new structure of the JTA assuring proper governance, and user representation	Chair	JTA-EC-14	ToRs of the ROCs, RUGs and nomination process to be reviewed. Targeted user groups: • GOOS • JCOMM • CBS • Wildlife ?
JEC13 #2	J35/3.4	JT-EC to develop the strategy document according to the template, in the view to submit it to the next Session of the JTA in 2016	J. Stander	JTA-36	On-going
JEC13 #3	J35/7.1.2	JTA-EC to finalize the membership of the Technical Advisory Group on Wildlife Argos Applications (TAGW) and to make a proposal at the next JTA meeting	Chair	JTA-36	Deferred, likely to be removed and replaced by invitation to Biologging Society. (JTA-EC14: 7)
JEC13 #4	J35/8.1.3	JTA-EC to provide JTA-36 with information on how flexible it is in controlling the Argos operating costs to take into account the possibility of a decline in JTA Argos usage	CLS & Chair	JTA-36	
JEC13 #5	J35/8.3.1	to address the two issues of (i) introducing an end-to-end Entry Level kit for emerging countries, such as developing countries and SIDS for Argos, and (ii) promoting scientific activities using Argos in polar regions, and make a proposal at the next JTA meeting through the JTA-EC	J. Stander G. Lichota D. Meldrum Y. Bernard	JTA-EC-14	EC reviewed, took account of CLS reluctance to develop special prices and decided not to develop special prices.

No.	Ref.	Action item	By whom	Deadline	Comment
JEC13 #6	J35/11.10	JTA-EC to consider updating the Operating Principles to change the term of the JTA-EC members in order to better reflect a commitment to improve long term continuity of the JTA activities	J. Stander	JTA-EC-14	Done
JEC13 #7	J35/11.12	JTA-EC to develop a JTA ROC and RUG nomination package to be considered by the JTAEC. The package will be used by the Secretariat to prepare the invitation letters to JTA meetings, and asking for nominations	Chair	JTA-EC-14	Done
JEC13 #8	JEC13	Writing an introduction to the operating principles to refer to new Vision and Mission	Chair	JTA-EC-14	Done
JEC13 #9	JEC13	Including a typical JTA-EC agenda in the Operating Principles as an annex	T. Gross	JTA-EC-14	Done
JEC13 #10	JEC13	Reviewing the intersessional workplan (Annex XI-J of the operating principles). JTA-EC workplan and reporting process to be developed and inserted in this annex.	Chair	JTA-EC-14	Done
JEC13 #11	JEC13	to confirm preferred choice for the dates of JTA-EC-14	J. Stander	asap	Done

Action Items of JTA-35, 2015

No.	Ref.	Action item	By whom	Deadline	Comment
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No.	Ref.	Action item	By whom	Deadline	Comment
J35#1	2.3.6	to propose a new structure of the JTA assuring proper governance, and user representation	JTA-EC	JTA-36	Done. Chair to present
J35#2	3.4	to develop the strategy document according to the template, in the view to submit it to the next Session of the JTA in 2016	JTA-EC	JTA-36	Open
J35#3	4.3	to develop the strategy document according to the template, in the view to submit it to the next Session of the JTA in 2016	ROCs	JTA-36	On-going, Johan to make addition to operating principles
J35#4	4.4	to address, and to report feedback from the national reports at the next JTA Session	CLS	JTA-36	On-going, Johan to make addition to operating principles
J35#5	7.1.2	to finalize the membership of the Technical Advisory Group on Wildlife Argos Applications (TAGW) and to make a proposal at the next JTA meeting	JTA-EC	JTA-36	Deferred, likely to be removed and replaced by invitation to Biologging Society. (JTA-EC14: 7)
J35#6	8.1.3	to provide JTA-36 with information on how flexible it is in controlling the Argos operating costs to take into account the possibility of a decline in JTA Argos usage	JTA-EC	JTA-36	

No.	Ref.	Action item	By whom	Deadline	Comment
J35#7	8.3.1	to address the two issues of (i) introducing an end-to-end Entry Level kit for emerging countries, such as developing countries and SIDS for Argos, and (ii) promoting scientific activities using Argos in polar regions regions, and make a proposal at the next JTA meeting through the JTA-EC	J. Stander G. Lichota D. Meldrum Y. Bernard	JTA-36	
J35#8	10.6	to consider the recommendations of India and to report at the next JTA Session	CLS	JTA-36	
J35#9	11.3	to make sure that the invitation letters for JTA-36 will go to the Permanent Representatives of WMO and the IOC Action Addressees with the ROCs cc'ed. The letters should also include the information from the Chair on the purpose and function of the JTA	Secretariat	JTA-36	Secretariat to make suggestion for addition to operating principles. Write to each MS to verify their ROC.
J35#10	11.9	to identify a ROC for France	CLS	JTA-36	Ifremer to be queried. Open
J35#11	11.10	to consider updating the Operating Principles to change the term of the JTA-EC members in order to better reflect a commitment to improve long term continuity of the JTA activities	JTA-EC	JTA-EC-14	Done
J35#12	11.11	to make proposal to the JTA-EC regarding the governance of the nomination of the ROs and ROCs for its consideration	Secretariat	JTA-EC-14	Done

No.	Ref.	Action item	By whom	Deadline	Comment
J35#13	11.12	to develop a JTA ROC and RUG nomination package to be considered by the JTA-EC. The package will be used by the Secretariat to prepare the invitation letters to JTA meetings, and asking for nominations	JTA-EC	JTA-EC-14	Done (JTA-EC14:)

Action Items of JTA-EC-14, 2016

No.	Ref. (agenda item)	Action/decision item	By whom	Deadline	Status
JEC#01	JEC14/ 2.1	The Canadian ROC (Keith Lennon DFO) is to be encouraged to attend the JTA-36.	Chair	JTA-36	
JEC#02	JEC14/ 2.1	The WMO SATCOM secretariat to be instructed to provide SATCOM Forum invitations to the JTA EC as ex-officio members of the SATCOM.	WMO Secretariat	June 2016	
JEC#03	JEC14/ 2.1	Invite CLS representative to attend both the OPSCOM and the JTA sessions.	Chair	May 2016	
JEC#04	JEC14/3	A brief summary or PPT of the JTA strategy should be prepared for review at next JTA	Stander & Chair, and EC for review	JTA-36	
JEC#05	JEC14/ 5	Present the FYP with the expected accelerated decreased usage by the large programmes.	CLS	JTA-36	

No.	Ref. (agenda item)	Action/decision item	By whom	Deadline	Status
JEC#06	JEC14/ 5	It was decided that, in the future JTA documents, B should be reported as euros/timeslots.	CLS	On-going	
JEC#07	JEC14/ 5	Formulations of different Tariff equations, should be considered in advance of development of the next Five Year plan.	CLS	EC-16	
JEC#08	JEC14/ 7	Write a letter inviting the Biologging Society's input to JTA and inviting it to become a RUG.	K.Holland	JTA-36	
JEC#09	JEC14/ 7	Chair of JTA-EC to request input to the JTA from manufacturers. CLS to aid by identifying manufacturers to address with this request	Chair, CLS	JTA-36	
JEC#10	JEC14/ 8	No special tariff will be enacted. However the JTA-EC will suggest to the SATCOM Forum that capacity development should be an essential activity of the SATCOM.	J. Stander	Satcom Forum	

ANNEX IV: DRAFT JTA-35 DOCUMENTATION PLAN

Recommended sizes:

- S: small (i.e., about 1 to 2 pages)
- M: medium (i.e., about 3 to 6 pages)
- L: large (i.e., about 7 pages or more)
- T: template to be used

Doc. No.	Agenda item	Title	Prepared by	Size	Due date	Remarks
INF. 1		Logistical Information	Secretariat	S	31/7/2015	Web only ¹
INF. 2		Documentation Plan	Secretariat	S	31/7/2015	
INF. 3		Format for National Reports	Secretariat	S	31/7/2015	
INF. 3		Provisional List of Participants	Secretariat	S	30/09/2015	
INF. 4		Time Table	Secretariat	S	31/7/2015	
1	1.2	Provisional Agenda	Secretariat	S	31/7/2015	
2	1.2	Provisional Annotated Agenda	Secretariat	M	31/7/2015	
3	2	Report from the Chairman (incl. overview of JTA, report on intersessional activities, and report of the Executive Committee)	E. Locklear	M	30/09/2015	
4	3	Feedback from the 2015 National Reports	CLS	S	15/09/2015	
5	5	Report on the 2014 Global Agreement, and projected 2015 Global Agreement	CLS	M	15/09/2015	
6	6	Report on the 2014-2015 Operations and System Improvements	CLS	M	15/09/2015	
7	8, 9	Review of the Structure of the Tariff Agreement and Related Matters	CLS	M	15/09/2015	
8	2,3,8,10,11	JTA Operating Principles	E. Locklear	M	31/08/2015	
9	11	National Reports	ROCs	T	30/07/2015	

¹ <http://www.jcomm.info/JTA-35>

10	2,4,8,10,11	Report of the 12th JTA Executive Committee meeting, Silver Spring, USA, 15-17 July 2015	E. Locklear	S	31/08/2015	
11	12	Report on the establishment of the International Forum of Users of Satellite Data Telecommunication Systems (SATCOM Forum)	Secretariat	S	15/09/2015	
12		Argos JTA Strategy Framework	J. Stander			

Background documents:

- ARGOS Joint Tariff Agreement, Thirty-Fourth Meeting, Record of Decisions

ANNEX V

ARGOS JOINT TARIFF AGREEMENT

THIRTY FIFTH SESSION

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Organization of the meeting

- 1.1 Opening of the meeting
- 1.2 Adoption of the agenda
- 1.3 Working arrangements
- 1.4 Selection of the Writing Group (WG)

2. Report of the Chairperson of the JTA

- 2.1 Overview of the JTA
- 2.2 Report on the JTA activities during the intersessional period, including report of the JTA Executive Committee
 - 2.2.1 Feed back from International User Conference on Argos Wildlife Applications

3. The Argos JTA Proposed Strategy Framework

4. Feedback from the 2014 national reports

5. Report on the 2015 Global Agreement

6. Report on the development and operations of CLS

7. Review of user requirements and issues

- 7.1 Approval of the ToRs of Technical Advisory Group Wildlife Argos Applications
 - 7.1.1 Announcement of Members of TAGW

8. Review of the structure of the Tariff Agreement and related matters

- 8.1 Review of the guiding principles for negotiating the Tariff
- 8.2 FYP for 2015 to 2019
- 8.3 Introductory Entry Packages for Developing Countries

9. Terms and Conditions of the 2016 Global Agreement

10. Future plans and programmes

11. Review of the Operating Principles

12. Review of Action Items from JTA-34

13. Any other business

13.1 SATCOM developments

13.2 Roundtable

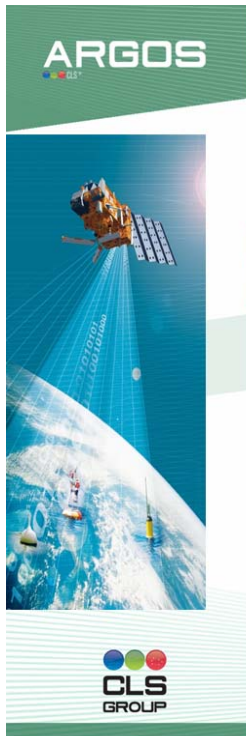
14. Elections

15. Date and place of next meeting

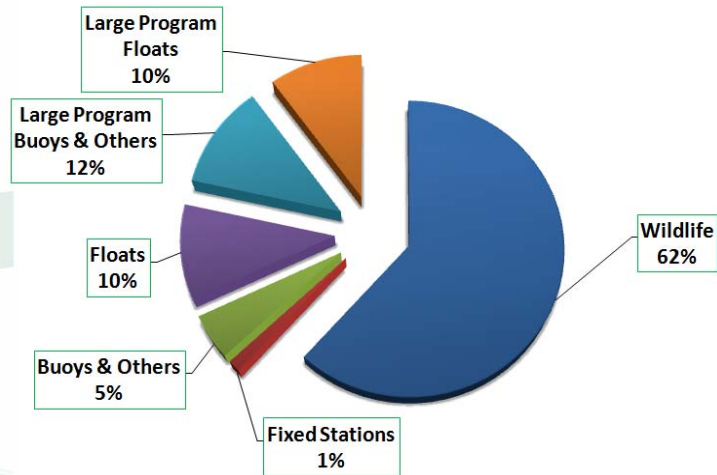
16. Closure of the meeting

Annex VI

JTA 2014 financial activities, and Five Year Plan 2015-19



2014 active PTTs

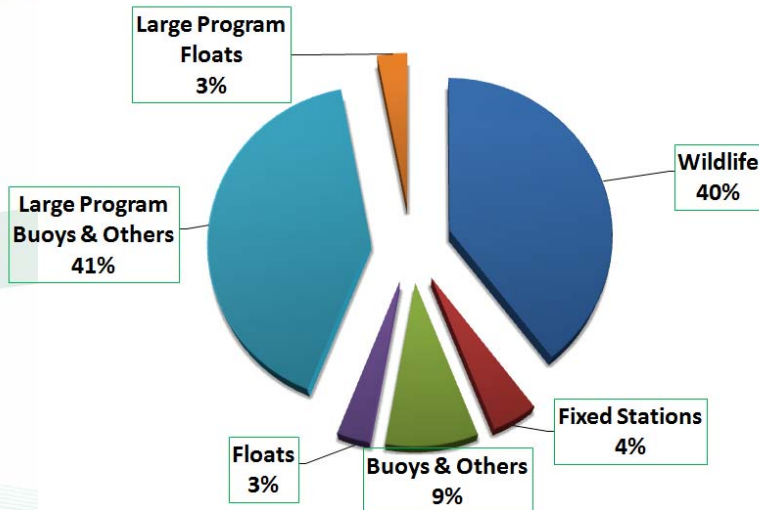


Total of 11 588 monthly active PTTs

JTA EC Meeting, July 15-17, 2015



2014 PTT years

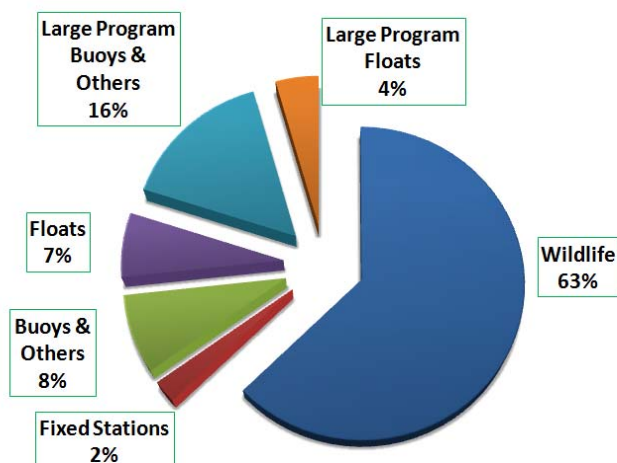


Total of 2 807 PTT years

JTA EC Meeting, July 15-17, 2015



2014 Total basic incomes



Total of 6.89 M€ basic incomes

JTA EC Meeting, July 15-17, 2015



Previous FYP 2010-2014

In euro	2010 actual	2011 actual	2012 actual	2013 actual	2014 actual
JTA Costs (M€)					
cost increase %	5.0%	-3.78%	1.45%	0.72%	-1.71%
Actual & Forecast	7.15	6.88	6.98	7.03	6.91
Agreed 5YP JTA Cost	7.10	7.48	7.81	7.98	8.15
JTA Income	2010 Actual	2011 Actual	2012 Actual	2013 Actual	2014 Actual
Activity: Actual and Forecast					
Growth Active PTTs (%)	5.7%	0%	-3%	-3%	-1%
Growth PTT-yrs (%)	6.9%	-7.4%	-10%	-4%	7%
Active PTTs (Total)	12 398	12 418	12 071	11 657	11 587
PTT-yrs (Total)	3 296	3 050	2 744	2 621	2 807
Active PTTs (w/o large program)	8 886	9 234	9 271	9 140	9 089
PTT-yrs (Buoy & Others)	454	382	320	315	251
PTT-yrs (floats w/o large pgm)	86	92	102	94	89
PTT-yrs (Animal)	916	973	1 002	1 049	1 110
PTT-yrs (Fixed stations)	140	129	128	116	123
Active PTTs (large pgm)	3 512	3 184	2 800	2 517	2 498
PTT-yrs (large pgm) Buoy & Others	1 572	1 341	1 065	939	1 148
PTT-yrs (large pgm) Floats	128	133	127	108	86
Basic Service Income					
Month unit income (M€)	1.60	1.66	1.67	1.65	1.64
Day unit income (M€)	4.08	3.75	3.75	3.83	3.88
Large pgm Day Unit Income (M€)	1.92	1.70	1.42	1.26	1.38
Total basic service expected (M€)	7.60	7.11	6.84	6.73	6.89
Additional revenue	0.301	0.335	0.298	0.362	0.369
Year Balance	0.75	0.57	0.15	0.06	0.35
Carried forward from previous year	1.66	2.41	2.98	3.13	3.20
Cumulated Balance	2.41	2.98	3.13	3.20	3.55

JTA EC Meeting, July 15-17, 2015

New FYP 2015-2019

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Hypothesis
	Projected	Projected	Projected	Projected	Projected	
JTA USAGE						
ACTIVE PTTs						
Wildlife	7523	7749	7981	8221	8467	Increase 3% per year
Fixed Stations	140	126	113	102	92	Decrease 10% per year
Buoys & Others	576	547	520	494	469	Decrease 5% per year
Floats	1050	1000	950	900	850	Decrease 50 floats per year
Large Program Buoys & Others	1300	1100	1000	900	800	Decrease by 200 from 2015 to 2016 and 100 the following years.
Large Program Floats	1050	1000	950	900	850	Decrease 50 floats per year
Total	11638	11521	11514	11516	11528	
PTT-Year						
Wildlife	1128	1162	1197	1233	1270	
Fixed Stations	126	113	102	92	82	
Buoys & Others	230	219	208	197	188	
Floats	86	82	78	74	70	
Large Program Buoys & Others	1068	904	822	740	658	
Large Program Floats	86	82	78	74	70	
Total	2725	2563	2485	2410	2337	
BASIC SERVICE INCOME						
Wildlife	4.44	4.58	4.71	4.86	5.00	
Fixed Stations	0.16	0.15	0.13	0.12	0.11	
Buoys & Others	0.47	0.45	0.43	0.40	0.38	
Floats	0.43	0.41	0.38	0.36	0.34	
Large Program Buoys & Others	1.40	1.19	1.08	0.97	0.86	
Large Program Floats	0.33	0.32	0.30	0.28	0.27	
Total	7.24	7.08	7.04	7.00	6.97	
Additional revenue (net revenue)	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	
Total revenue	7.54	7.38	7.34	7.30	7.27	
JTA EXPENSES (M Euros)						
Year Balance	7.23	7.34	7.45	7.56	7.68	Increase 1.5% per year
Carried Forward from Previous Year	0.31	0.04	-0.12	-0.26	-0.41	
Cumulative Balance	3.26	3.56	3.60	3.49	3.22	
	3.56	3.60	3.49	3.22	2.82	