

Satcom Forum:

a resource for users of satellite communications
for data collection and alerting



About Satcom Forum

Satcom Forum is a volunteer-run group formed by the WMO and IOC. It aims to serve the needs of scientific organisations that make use of satellite communications (“satcom”) to collect and distribute data. It brings together satcom users to share knowledge and best practice, and also invites people from the industry to share their expertise. This includes the satellite network operators, their resellers and agents, and the manufacturers of the satellite terminals. It intends to become a clearing-house for informed, impartial knowledge about the many different satcom systems that are available on the market, so that users can choose a system that best suits their needs.

Satcom Handbook

Satcom Forum has produced a “Handbook”, which provides an overview of all the satcom systems available on the market. It also provides a directory of useful contacts in the industry. We hope that this will become an invaluable reference for anyone looking to use satellite systems for their scientific work.

The Handbook is published as an official document by the WMO, and is also available in a regularly-updated free web version: <https://wiswiki.wmo.int/Satcom-Guide>

Disaster alerting tariffs

Disaster alerting – for example for tsunami or river flooding – can give vital early warning to vulnerable communities, provided that the message actually gets through.

Terrestrial infrastructure is easily disrupted by natural disasters or conflict. Disaster alerting systems should be independent from terrestrial power and communications networks. We are proposing to develop special prepaid tariffs for disaster alerting using satellite networks, so that the use of robust and reliable satellite systems can be cost-effective.

Training and outreach

Satcom Forum hopes to engage with national hydro-meteorological services, research institutes and universities in order to promote greater understanding of the value of satellite systems for data collection and alerting. We intend to have a conference meeting in 2020, details of which should be available soon.

For more on Satcom Forum, please visit our webpage: <https://wis.wmo.int/page=Satcom>

Get involved

We welcome new participants, both at our conferences and on the executive committee. Please speak to the Chair, Dr Mike Prior-Jones, who can be contacted at mike@randominformation.co.uk