(Released on January 7, 2004)

Summary of Meeting of the Radio Regulatory Council (No. 879)

1. Date and Time

December 10, 2003 (Wednesday)

16:00 to 17:16

2. Location

Meeting Room of MIC (Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications)

(Meeting Room No. 1001 on the 10th floor)

3. Attendees (Honorifics omitted)

(1) Members of the Radio Regulatory Council

Yasuhiko Yasuda (Chairperson), Takeo Inokuchi (Vice-Chairperson), Junichi Hamada, and Hatsuko Ukikawa

(2) Hearing Examiner of the Radio Regulatory Council

Taku Kiyasu

(3) Secretary

Masao Okamoto (Deputy Director of the General Affairs Division, Telecommunications Bureau)

(4) MIC (Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications)

Takeda (Director-General of the Radio Department), Fujioka (Deputy Director-General of the Minister's Secretariat), and others

4. Minutes of the Meeting

(1) Regarding the ministerial ordinance that partially amends the Regulations for Enforcement of the Radio Law, the Essential Standards for Establishing Radio Stations Other Than Broadcast Stations, the Regulations for Procedure for Obtaining a Radio Station License, the Regulations for Operating Radio Stations, the Rules for Radio

Equipment, and the Regulations Concerning Technical Standards Compliance Certification etc. of Specified Radio Equipment

(Consultation No. 39)

As this matter was related to Consultation No. 40, MIC explained it and provided a question-and-answer session in conjunction with Consultation No. 40.

(2) Regarding the proposed change to a part of the Frequency Assignment Plan

(Consultation No. 40)

As this matter was related to Consultation No. 39, MIC explained it and provided a question-and-answer session in conjunction with Consultation No. 39 as follows.

Note that as the Radio Law required that MIC hear public comments on Consultation No. 39 and MIC concluded that it was appropriate to ask the opinions of the Council about Consultation No. 40 in conjunction with Consultation No. 39, MIC decided to subject them to the public hearing process as one set and appointed Taku Kiyasu as the hearing examiner who would preside over procedures for the public hearing.

a. Explanation by MIC

Consultation No. 39 intends to make amendments related to the "deployment of high-speed and high-capacity aeronautical mobile satellite communication systems that use the Ku band and so forth" and the "introduction of a specified experimental station system."

First, the subject "deployment of high-speed and high-capacity aeronautical mobile satellite communication systems that use the Ku band and so forth" consists of three component items. The first item is the ministerial ordinance amendment for developing an environment that allows passengers in an airplane cabin to use broadband Internet communication means.

MIC today asks the Council to deliberate the draft ministerial ordinance amendment based on the Telecommunications Council report on the technical conditions in response to the frequency allotment to these systems decided in the June 2003 World Radiocommunication Conference. The second item is to add an improved version of service to mobile satellite communication systems for INMARSAT (International

Maritime Satellite Organization), and the third item is to increase antenna power for ORBCOMM system terminals.

What the first item achieves is to address the need for deploying a system that enables a connection to be made to the Internet through an aeronautical ground station from an airplane cabin by using a Ku-band satellite communication system, and that can provide radio transmission with a maximum of 20Mbps downstream and 1Mbps upstream. Specifically, Connexion by Boeing Inc. (CBB), a business unit of The Boeing Company, indicates its intention to provide the company's service globally and MIC hears that airlines in Europe wish to deploy the service as early as next spring, and JAL and ANA will do likewise by the end of next year.

The main amendments are to conduct deregulation measures, including but not limited to the following:

1) A blanket license shall apply to the service,

2) The simple operation mode that does not require any qualifications for radio operators shall apply to the service,

3) The periodic inspection shall not be required for the service, and

4) The service shall be exonerated from the watch-keeping obligation.

The amendment to a part of the Rules for Radio Equipment is intended to include the technical conditions in the ministerial ordinance, and as the fact that a blanket license shall be applicable to the service makes the relevant radio equipment require Technical Standards Compliance Certification, MIC wishes to amend the Regulations Concerning Technical Standards Compliance Certification etc. of Specified Radio Equipment.

Following the first item, the second item concerns the relation to INMARSAT, and MIC asks the Council to deliberate on the streamlining of the relevant provisions related to the deployment of the F and D systems. The detail is that it is about not only making the F systems for ships faster, but also adding them as mobile earth stations. The F systems are like an improved version of the portable minimal M systems. The data transmission rate of the D systems is very slow, namely 32bps. Recently, however, the SOLAS convention, or the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea, has been revised to require that alarm equipment must be installed as countermeasures against terrorist attacks, etc. In line with next July's

enforcement of the revised convention, INMARSAT wishes to provide services for the alarm equipment and so forth.

The third item intends to increase antenna power for the ORBCOMM system terminals from 5W to 10W. Only Japan is using antenna power at 5W for the current ORBCOMM systems. The rest of the world is using 10W antenna power. If the antenna power were increased to 10W, the price of the terminals could be reduced and higher quality services could be provided. For this reason, MIC intends to address the matter. MIC asks the Council to deliberate the matter because the radio stations that are used by broadcasting stations, newspaper companies, law-enforcement agencies, etc. and share the same frequencies with the terminals will not cause any problems under certain conditions even if the antenna power is increased to 10W.

When universities, research laboratories in manufacturers or other institutions perform verification experiments on new systems, they must acquire licenses for the experimental stations and it comparatively takes some time to subject such stations to the procedure for now. The next amendment, for the "introduction of a specified experimental station system," is intended to add a new specified experimental station system that provides a more prompt license procedure for experimental stations in response to the request for streamlining the relevant laws, provisions and mechanisms to enable such institutions to start such experiments earlier than now. This amendment is expected to promote the development of new technologies in universities, manufacturers, and other organizations, which will then lead to the prompt commercialization of new products, etc.

Specifically, the system is designed to enable the license process to be completed within a shorter time by making a public announcement about serviceable areas, frequencies, antenna power and other information beforehand, omitting the substantial part of the radio inspection, license procedure and so forth for only the radio stations that meet said conditions and have a short license period such as approximately one or two years.

Note that this ministerial ordinance will be effective on the date of promulgation.

Consultation No. 40 intends to change the parts of the Frequency Assignment Plan that are related to the "deployment of high-speed and high-capacity aeronautical mobile satellite communication systems that use the Ku band and so forth" and the

deployment of INMARSAT F and D type systems as earth stations in Consultation No. 39.

Specifically, first, for the high-speed and high-capacity aeronautical mobile satellite communication systems that use the Ku band, the proposed change intends to modify the Frequency Assignment Plan in conjunction with this institutional measure in response to the decision by the World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-03) held in June to July of this year to distribute the frequency band of 14 to 14.5GHz, which could not be used internationally for aeronautical mobile satellite services then, so that it could be used globally.

Next, for the INMARSAT F and D type systems as earth stations, it also intends to modify the plan in the wake of the addition of the stations, so that the systems can use the frequency band.

b. Main contents of the Q&A session

- The following questions were asked:"I would like to ask questions about the aeronautical mobile satellite radio systems. Is the frequency band of 14 to 14.5GHz for uplink only? I assume what WRC distributed as a second allotment is for uplink, so it is not paired with the one for downlink. Does the allotment work in real usage environments? In downlink, a high-speed transmission of 20MHz is planned. Is the current allotment sufficient for such usage? Is it acceptable not to allot new frequencies to the application?"

MIC answered as follows: "The 12GHz band has been allotted to downlink applications, so MIC thinks it is sufficient."

- The following question was asked:"MIC explained that what was installed in aircraft would be treated as a blanket license candidate. Does MIC mean that what MIC intends to license includes antennas or transmitters?" MIC answered and added an explanation as follows: "What MIC asks the Council to deliberate is only the radio equipment that communicates with satellites using radio spectrum in the Ku band. Wireless LAN terminals to be used in aircraft are a different story. MIC does not ask the Council to deliberate on them. Now, for example, they are being tested. MIC needs more time to check whether a blanket license should be issued for them."

- The following question was asked:"Will the European airlines that plan to start to use the service next year utilize wireless LAN?" MIC answered as follows:"They

may use wireless LAN. In the case of Japan, since JAL and ANA install microwave ovens that interfere with wireless LAN using the 2.4GHz band, use of the LAN is difficult. Many research activities are now being conducted on the matter."

(3) Regarding the ministerial ordinance that partially amends the Rules for Radio Operators

(Consultation No. 41)

MIC explained the ministerial ordinance that partially amends the Rules for Radio Operators as follows.

Note that as the Radio Law required that MIC hear public comments on this matter, MIC appointed Taku Kiyasu as the examiner who would preside over procedures for inviting public comments.

Explanation by MIC

This consultation is brought forward in the wake of the administrative procedures made online. MIC establishes the common items in the Regulations for Enforcement of the Laws Concerning the Use of Information Communication Technologies in Administrative Procedures, Etc. related to the Laws and Regulations related to the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (Ministerial Ordinance No. 48 of 2003 from the Ministry of Public Management, Home Affairs, Posts and Telecommunication) and must streamline the provisions in the relevant ministerial ordinances for the individual items and amend the relevant provisions in the Rules for Radio Operators concerning, but not limited to, the reduction of documents attached to the application in the wake of the radio operator-related procedures accomplished online.

The content of the consultation includes two items: The first item is concerned with a mechanism that allows qualified facilities for training courses and qualified training course providers to electronically save questions and answers for training course end-of-course examinations and view them through devices such as personal computers. The second is to allow for the case where an applicant uses his or her code number from the Basic Resident Register in his or her application. If that is the case, new measures include, but are not limited to, releasing the applicant from the requirement to submit a document(s) that proves his or her full name and birth date to

identify the applicant and allowing him or her to submit one picture in the cases where he or she must currently submit two copies of the same picture.

(4) Regarding preliminary licenses for terrestrial digital broadcasting stations

(Consultation No. 42)

MIC explained the preliminary licenses for terrestrial digital broadcasting stations and provided a question-and-answer session as follows. The Council deliberated this matter and replied indicating that the Council regarded it as acceptable.

a. Explanation by MIC

This deals with the application for a license from SUN-TV Co., Ltd., which provides analog broadcasting services to Hyogo Prefecture as its broadcasting service area.

Specifically, the company wishes to obtain a license for one broadcasting station (key station), with Hyogo Prefecture as the broadcasting service area, and desired frequencies and antenna power of 26ch and 1kW. It plans to mainly provide simultaneous broadcasts through high-definition TV broadcasting at the beginning of the operation, and shift to providing mobile broadcasting services that leverage the features of digital technologies as soon as the environment has been developed, which will cover about 1.60 million households.

As a result of examining the application, MIC has concluded that it meets all of the standards stipulated in the Radio Law, the Essential Standards for Establishing Broadcasting Stations, and the Examination Standards for the Radio Law.
In addition, MIC wishes to grant the company a preliminary license on the ground that the application satisfies the conformance to the license policy that is specific to terrestrial digital television broadcasting stations.

The schedule for starting the service is as follows if MIC receives the reply from the Council today: December 18th - the preliminary license granted; late November, 2004 - the proper license granted after the inspection for the construction of the station is completed; December 1 of the same year - the company starts terrestrial digital television broadcasting services.

b. Main contents of the Q&A session

- The following question was asked: “Does Hyogo Prefecture have commercial broadcasters that have started providing terrestrial digital TV broadcasts besides NHK?” MIC answered as follows: “In Hyogo Prefecture, a relay station for wide-area broadcasting stations will be set up in Mayasan in fiscal 2005. The four commercial broadcasters, namely, YOMIURI TELECASTING CORPORATION, Kansai Telecasting Corporation, Asahi Broadcasting Corporation, and Mainichi Broadcasting System, Inc., have already started offering digital broadcast services to the Kinki wide area as their service area, with the key station in Osaka’s Ikomayama. The relay station will be for the services.”
- The following questions were asked: “Does Hyogo Prefecture belong to the Kinki wide area? Does SUN-TV Co., Ltd. plan to install their relay stations sequentially not in the entire wide area, but inside the prefecture?” MIC answerd as follows: “The answers are all ‘yes’.”
- The following question was asked: “I understand that SUN-TV will start broadcasting on December 1, 2004. Does it depend on each broadcaster when the broadcaster starts its services in the range up to the end of 2006?” MIC answered as follows: “SUN-TV applied for the license because they wanted to start to offer services at the end of 2004. Other broadcasters will start broadcasting at any time in the range up to the end of 2006 depending on business judgments, regional conditions, and so forth.”
- The following question was asked: “Does MIC mean that offering of new digital prefectural broadcasting services will not be allowed after the end of 2006?” MIC answered as follows: “Basically, as the broadcasters that are providing analog broadcasts must fully shift from analog to digital services, they are supposed to start offering digital broadcasts by the end of 2006, which means that new entry will be a consideration when some frequencies are found to be free after the shift from analog to digital has been completed.”

(The Radio Regulatory Council Secretariat is responsible for the wording of this document)