

Main Points of Proceedings of the 894th Radio Regulatory Council Meeting

1. Date

Wednesday, April 13, 2005 16:10 to 17:53PM

2. Venue

Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications conference room (conference room No. 1002, 10th floor)

3. Participants (honorific titles omitted)

(1) Committee member of Radio Regulatory Council

Yasuhiko YASUDA (Chairman), Takeo IGUCHI (Deputy Chairman), Kashiko KODATE

(2) Hearing examiner of Radio Regulatory Council

Tasuku KIYASU

(3) Secretary

Masao OKAMOTO (Assistant Director of General Affairs Division, Telecommunications Bureau)

(4) Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (hereinafter referred to as “the MIC” in this section)

ARITOMI (Director General of Telecommunications Bureau), TAKEDA (Director General of Radio Department) and others

4. Contents of proceedings

(1) Concerning a ministerial ordinance plan to amend part of the Radio Law Enforcement Regulations, Regulations for the Procedure for Obtaining a Radio Station License, Radio Equipment Regulations, Ordinance Concerning Technical Regulations Conformity Certification of Specified Radio Equipment, Rules Concerning Specific Frequency Change Support, Rules Concerning Specific Frequency Termination Support and the Ordinance Concerning the Survey of radio spectrum usage, etc. and a plan to amend part of the frequency allocation plan (Inquiry Nos. 3 and 4, dated February 9, 2005)

Members of the Radio Regulatory Council deliberated on a ministerial ordinance plan to amend part of the captioned regulations in accordance with the introduction of a registration system, the national spreading of the special measure applied in the recognized special deregulation zone and the introduction of a 5 GHz-band low-power data communications system, as well as the plan to amend a part of the frequency allocation plan, based on a protocol submitted by the

Hearing Examiner who presided over the hearing procedures and the written opinions (see written opinions obtained at the 397th Radio Regulatory Council Meeting) and replied to the effect that the amendment plans are appropriate on the whole.

Concerning a ministerial ordinance plan to amend part of the Radio Law Enforcement Regulations, Radio Equipment Regulations and Ordinance Concerning Technical Regulations Conformity Certification of Specified Radio Equipment, the participants added an opinion to the effect that in the frequency transition of radio stations of low-power data communications systems using frequencies from 5,150 MHz to 5,250 MHz from old frequencies (5,170 MHz, 5,190 MHz, 5,210 MHz and 5,230 MHz) to new frequencies (5,180 MHz, 5,200 MHz, 5,220 MHz and 5,240 MHz), it would be better to make the old frequencies usable by limiting the period during which a technical regulations conformity certification can be obtained and that it would be better to make the old frequencies usable in branch radio stations.

(2) Concerning a ministerial ordinance plan to amend part of the Radio Law Enforcement Regulations, Radio Equipment Regulations, the Ordinance Concerning Technical Regulations Conformity Certification of Specified Radio Equipment and the Ordinance Concerning Survey of Radio Spectrum Usage, etc. (Inquiry No. 17)

Regarding the amendment of technical standards for radio equipment in a broadcasting station performing shortwave broadcasting, the establishment of technical standards for an embedded-in-body type medical data transmission system, the alleviation of technical conditions for a low-power security system and deletion of relevant rules because of the termination of the aircraft telephony service, in accordance with the amendment of technical standards on permissible values of the spurious emission intensity of radio equipment and the amendment of radio communications regulations by the World Radio Communications Conference (WRC), a participant from the MIC offered the following explanation and a question and answer session was conducted, as set out below.

A hearing of inquiry No. 17 is obligatory pursuant to Article 99.12, paragraph 1 of the Radio Law and Tasuku KIYASU was designated as the hearing examiner to preside over the hearing procedure.

a. Explanation by the MIC

There are five main points in inquiry No. 17. The first point is to amend the technical standards on the permissible values of spurious emission intensity of radio equipment. The objective is to

maintain and improve the radio-wave use environment and promote the use of radio waves by decreasing spurious emissions, which are unnecessary, as much as possible. We will improve the said regulations based on the amendment of the Radio Communications Regulations (RR) Concerning Permissible Values of Spurious Emission Intensities by the WRC and the response by the Telecommunications Council.

The second point is to amend the technical standards for radio equipment in a broadcasting station that conducts shortwave broadcasting, based on the amendment to the radio communications regulations of the WRC. It had been decided that the transmission system of radio equipment in a broadcasting station that conducts shortwave broadcasting would be changed from a double-sideband transmission system to a single-sideband transmission system, for purposes of making effective use of frequencies, by no later than December 31, 2015. However, in WRC-03, this policy was changed to include digital methods in shortwave broadcasting, so that regulations on the expiry date of the double-sideband transmission system and regulations on a 12 dB single-sideband transmission system, which has not yet been introduced, are all to be deleted. Based on such an amendment of radio equipment regulations by the WRC, we have decided to delete similar domestic regulations.

The third point is to establish technical standards for an embedded-in-body type medical data transmission system. Data transmission between a cardiac pacemaker and an external control device was implemented with a wire transmission method in the past. Because a higher data transmission rate can be achieved by changing from a wire to a wireless transmission method a remarkable effect can be achieved. For example, diagnosis time can be shortened and the danger of passing on infectious diseases can be reduced because nothing touches the patient. From a technical viewpoint a response has been received from the technical division of the Telecommunications Council and we will, based on their response, add the specified low-power radio station as a new item to the Radio Equipment Regulations.

The fourth point is to remove the technical conditions for a low-power security system. When the security system was put to practical use, connecting it to a telecommunications line was a prior condition, but the desire to abolish the connection obligation has appeared lately along with the need to diversify its uses. We will, based on this desire, delete the regulations on the connection of a security system to a telecommunications line, in order to facilitate flexible usage.

The fifth point is to delete relevant regulations in accordance with the termination of an aircraft

telephony service. Radio stations for aeronautical radio telephony were introduced in 1986 and an aircraft telephony service was provided to aircraft flying along domestic air routes, but this service was terminated in March 1986 and licenses of said radio stations were revoked entirely. Accordingly, we will delete the regulations related to these radio stations.

b. Main question and answers

- Only the spurious emission region is restricted on an international basis. Why is the out-of-band region restricted in the forthcoming amendment? A participant from the MIC replied to this question as follows: *“Internationally, various types of systems are used in various countries, because they want to have flexibility concerning the out-of-band region, but they are studying various systems that may be suitable, based on the ITU’s advice. In Japan, because frequencies are extremely tight, the out-of-band region has been restricted and we have stipulated the same regulations as were in existence before taking the gist of the Radio Equipment Regulations amendment into consideration.”*

- Do you have any intention of digitizing shortwave broadcasting? A participant from the MIC replied to this question as follows: *“Digital broadcasting has already started in some countries, but digital shortwave broadcasting technology has not yet advanced and research is under way.”*

(3) Concerning a plan to amend part of the frequency allocation plan (Inquiry No. 18)

Concerning a plan to amend part of the frequency allocation plan in accordance with the introduction of an embedded-in-body type medical data transmission system, a participant from the MIC offered the following explanation and a question and answer session was conducted as set out below.

A hearing of this inquiry is not obligatory, but because this inquiry is closely related to inquiry No. 17, it was decided that a simultaneous hearing would be held for both inquiries. Tasuku KIYASU was designated as the hearing examiner to preside over the procedure for the hearing.

a. Explanation by the MIC

This plan is intended to amend part of the frequency allocation plan to introduce an embedded-in-body type medical data transmission system (in connection with inquiry No. 17).

More specifically, concerning the frequencies in the 402 to 406 MHz band which are used as meteorological aids, such as a meteorological radio and robot at present, ITU came to the conclusion in its radio communications conference, that these frequencies can also be used for

an embedded-in-body type medical transmission system. Accordingly, we will include an embedded-in-body type medical transmission system in the frequency allocation plan, based on this conclusion.

b. Main questions and answers

- Is there not a problem with sharing these frequencies in that an embedded-in-body type medical transmission system is not a primary service but a secondary service? A participant from the MIC replied to this question as follows: *“An embedded-in-body type medical transmission system is designed to avoid interference from other radio services with a carrier sensing function built into it and about 10 channels have been prepared so that they can be used by switching them over.”*

(4) Concerning a ministerial ordinance plan to amend part of the Radio Station Operation Regulations (Inquiry No. 19)

Concerning the captioned ministerial plan related to the addition of a type of monitoring emission in air traffic control communications, a participant from the MIC offered the following explanation and a question and answer session was conducted, as set out below.

A hearing of this inquiry is obligatory pursuant to Article 99.12, paragraph 1 of the Radio Law, and Tasuku KIYASU was designated as the hearing examiner to preside over the hearing procedure.

a. Explanation from the MIC

The purpose of this ministerial plan is to amend an applicable ministerial ordinance related to monitoring emissions for air traffic control communications.

The Radio Law stipulates the type of emission for aircraft and ships that must be monitored to ensure the safety of human life and security in aeronautical navigation. From the viewpoint of ensuring safety, we will perform air traffic control with a satellite line, by combining data, voice, facsimiles, etc. Regarding the type of the emission for monitoring, we will add class G7W to an aeronautical earth station and classes G1D and G7W to an aircraft earth station.

The Ku and Ka bands of an aeronautical earth station do not form part of the subject matter of this inquiry, but we will add Ku and Ka bands by means of an MIC announcement. We are planning to hear public comments on this matter, as well as on the said ministerial plan.

b. Main questions and answers

- You say: "From a viewpoint of ensuring safety...." Please explain by what degree safety will be raised by this amendment. A participant from the MIC replied to this question as follows: "*In the past, only data control was performed by satellite line and air traffic voice control was only possible via a terrestrial line. Accordingly, the amendment will help ensure the safety of human life and security of aeronautical navigation by adding a type of emission that facilitates voice-based air traffic via satellite line.*"

(5) Concerning a ministerial ordinance plan to amend part of the Radio Equipment Regulations (Inquiry No. 20)

Concerning the captioned ministerial ordinance plan related to the amendment of technical standards for a NAVTEX receiver, etc. for maritime communications, a participant from the MIC offered the following explanation and a question and answer session was conducted, as set out below.

A hearing of inquiry No. 20 is obligatory pursuant to Article 99.12, paragraph 1 of the Radio Law and Tasuku KIYASU was designated as the hearing examiner to preside over the hearing procedure.

a. Explanation by the MIC

The International Maritime Organization (IMO) stipulates that a NAVTEX receiver and a two-way radio telephone are compulsory equipment on a ship and the performance standards of these devices have been established according to a resolution of the Maritime Safety Committee (MSC) of IMO. Since an amendment plan for establishing performance standards of a NAVTEX receiver and a two-way radio telephone was adopted by the MSC in May 2003 and it was decided that the performance standards would apply as from July 1, 2005, we will establish relevant regulations accordingly.

An outline of the amendment is: to make it possible to simultaneously receive a NAVTEX frequency, other than the international NAVTEX 518 KHz frequency; to add a display indicating method in addition to the conventional built-in printing method; and to fit two-way radio telephones with a strap to improve the convenience of these devices.

We would like to set July 1, 2005 as the date of commencement of the enforcement of this

ministerial ordinance, in line with the MSC's decision.

b. Main questions and answers

- How many ships are fitted with a NAVTEX receiver in Japan? A participant from the MIC replied to this question as follows: *“Based on the treaty, the number of ships in which a NAVTEX receiver is compulsory, is 1,377. The total number of ships, including fishing boats, that are fitted with an international NAVTEX receiver is 2,039.”*

- You said: “When the memory capacity is reached old messages are updated with new messages. Does this mean that old messages are overwritten by new messages? Are old messages not saved?” A participant from the MIC replied to this question as follows: *“Because messages change sequentially and continually, they do not need to be saved and they are scrolled up at a predetermined memory capacity.”*

(6) Concerning the results and assessment of the fiscal 2004 survey of actual radio spectrum usage (inquiry No. 21)

Concerning the results and assessment of the fiscal 2004 survey of actual radio spectrum usage, a participant from the MIC offered the following explanation and a question and answer session was conducted, as set out below. Members of the Radio Regulatory Council replied to the effect that the results and assessment are appropriate.

a. Explanation by the MIC

The purpose of this survey is to assess actual radio spectrum usage by dividing frequency bands equivalent to and lower than 3 THz into three and using a three-year interval as one cycle, in accordance with Article 26.2 of the Radio Law. The target of the fiscal 2004 survey was frequency bands from 770 MHz to 3.4 GHz.

As a result of assessment, we can say that the radio spectrum is used appropriately on the whole, but we assess part of the spectrum usage system as follows:

1) Concerning a system in which a reduction in frequency bandwidth, or transition to another frequency band, has already been decided upon in the frequency allocation plan, such as MCA (multi-channel access) mobile land communications, airport radio telephone communications and local radio communications for disaster prevention, we must continue paying attention to the progress made in the reorganizing of frequencies.

2) Concerning an 800 MHz-band FPU (field pickup unit), a personal radio, a 950 MHz-band voice STL/TTL, 1.5 GHz-band portable radio communications, 1.9 GHz-band subscriber radio

access communications, etc., we need to study measures for advancing more effective use of frequencies, including replacement by another telecommunications service or transition to another frequency.

3) It is desirable, as a measure for making effective use of frequencies in local areas, to study, for example, the possibility of introducing another system in consideration of demand trends in areas where demand for frequencies is comparatively small, such as mountainous regions, even when a frequency is allocated on a national basis.

b. Main questions and answers

- Regarding measures for making effective use of frequencies in local areas, how do you implement the measures, based on the results of the survey? A participant from the MIC replied to this question as follows: *“We do not envisage any concrete system at present, but we are planning to study measures to use frequencies effectively that are suitable for the actual circumstances in each individual location.”*

- Why is there no radio station for an 800 MHz-band FPU in Okinawa? A participant from the MIC replied to this question as follows: *“There are FPUs that use frequencies other than frequencies in the 800 MHz band. We believe that an FPU using a frequency other than 800 MHz will suffice in Okinawa.”*

- Among the survey items there is an item that can possibly be replaced by an optical fiber system. Have any concrete ideas resulted from the survey? A participant from the MIC replied to this question as follows: *“A concrete example from the survey implemented last year is a fixed station for a telecommunications business that previously used a frequency in the 5 GHz band being replaced by an optical fiber system and we are proceeding with the reorganization of frequencies so that we can introduce a high-output-power radio LAN system in place of a fixed station for a telecommunications business.”*

(7) Concerning a blanket license of a specified radio station belonging to KDDI Network & Solutions Inc. (Inquiry No. 22)

Concerning a blanket license of a specified radio station belonging to KDDI Network & Solutions Inc., a participant from the MIC offered the following explanation and a question and answer session was conducted as set out below. After deliberation, members of the Radio Regulatory Council replied to the effect that the blanket license is appropriate.

a. Explanation by the MIC

KDDI Network & Solutions Inc. applied for a blanket license of a portable mobile earth station

to carry out a maintenance service for an iridium system.

An iridium system is a global mobile satellite communications system using 66 LEO (low earth orbit) satellites. No telecommunications carrier has provided the said maintenance service since 2000 when Japan Iridium Inc. stopped operating a maintenance service. From the viewpoint of securing emergency traffic when natural disasters occur, we recognize the effectiveness and importance of a satellite mobile telephone.

As a result of examining the issues, we have decided to grant the blanket license because this application conforms to the possibility of frequency allocation and the essential standards for establishing a specified radio station that is prescribed in an MIC ordinance.

b. Main questions and answers

- Does the maintenance service for an iridium system have anything to do with that of an INMARSAT mobile system? A participant from the MIC replied to this question as follows: *“There is a difference in that an INMARSAT mobile system is a geostationary satellite, while an iridium system is a non-geostationary satellite. Another difference is that an iridium system covers a wider range of communications, has portable system terminals and is easy to access.”* (Responsibility for the wording: Secretariat of the Radio Regulatory Council)