



Radiocommunication Bureau (BR)

Circular Letter
7/LCCE/62

22 May 2013

**To Administrations of Member States of the ITU, Radiocommunication Sector Members,
ITU-R Associates participating in the work of Radiocommunication Study Group 7
and ITU-R Academia**

Subject: **ITU/BIPM Workshop – Future of the International Time Scale**

1 Introduction

By means of this Circular letter, the ITU Radiocommunication Bureau has the pleasure to invite your administration or organization to attend the ITU/BIPM Workshop which will take place in the ITU Headquarters in Geneva from 19-20 September 2013.

2 Programme of the Workshop

Preliminary information on the programme of the Workshop and invited speakers may be found in the Annex. The success of any event organized by ITU depends to a large extent on the active participation of administrations in the discussion of the issues at hand. We are therefore seeking your support in providing a presentation on the issues under discussion.

Should your administration wish to make a presentation, please contact Mr. V. Nozdrin, BR Counsellor (vadim.nozdrin@itu.int) before 15 June 2013 in order to have your presentation included on the agenda for the Workshop.

A web page for Workshop participants is to be found at:

www.itu.int/ITU-R/go/itu-bipm-workshop-13.

All relevant information will be posted on this page as it is received, together with a detailed agenda and the texts of presentations.

The Workshop will be held in English only.

3 Participation/Visa requirements/Accommodation

Advance registration to ITU-R events is mandatory and carried out exclusively online through Designated Focal Points (DFPs). Each ITU-R Member has been requested to designate a DFP responsible for the handling of all registration formalities, including visa support requests that should also be submitted by the DFP during the on-line registration process. Individuals wishing to be registered to an ITU-R event should contact directly the DFP for their entity. The list of ITU-R DFPs (TIES protected) as well as detailed information on event registration, visa support requirements, hotel accommodation, etc. can be found at:

www.itu.int/en/ITU-R/information/events

François Rancy
Director

Annex: 1

Distribution:

- Administrations of Member States of the ITU and Radiocommunication Sector Members participating in the work of Radiocommunication Study Group 7
- ITU-R Associates participating in the work of Radiocommunication Study Group 7
- ITU-R Academia
- Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of Radiocommunication Study Group 7
- Secretary General of the ITU, Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau, Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau
- ITU Regional and Zone offices
- IMO, ICAO, IERS, IUGG, URSI, ISO, WMO, IAU, UNOOSA , International Council for Science (ICSU)

ANNEX

Background paper

The Radiocommunication Assembly 2012 (RA-12) considered the possible revision of Recommendation ITU-R TF.460-6 “Standard-frequency and time-signal emissions”, that has been the subject of special studies and outreach by the ITU-R Working Party 7A since 2000. Recommendation ITU-R TF.460-6 defines Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) on the basis of the time kept by atomic clocks and recommends the application of leap seconds to maintain it close to Universal Time 1 (UT1), a time proportional to the rotation angle of the Earth on its axis. UTC is the time scale maintained through the General Conference on Weights and Measures by the International Bureau of Weights and Measures (BIPM) in coordination with the International Earth Rotation and Reference Systems Service (IERS). The IERS determines when the UT1 - UTC threshold will reach 0.9 s and announces the need for a leap second. The proposed revision eliminates the insertion of leap seconds in the UTC time scale. After considerable discussion RA-12 concluded that additional studies related to the possible implementation of a continuous reference time-scale are required and postponed the decision on this matter to the World Radiocommunication Conference 2015.

This Workshop will provide a unique opportunity to get all available information on currently used time scales and to discuss precise frequency and time standards, sources and their characteristics, time scales and dissemination systems and different views on the future of UTC.

The Workshop is intended primarily for the managerial and technical staff of State radiocommunication authorities involved in preparation for WRC-15, helping them to develop their national positions. It may also be enlightening for a wider audience, namely telecommunication companies, internet providers, space agencies, aviation, maritime and meteorological organizations, and universities in providing them with an understanding of regulatory, technical and practical aspects of keeping and disseminating standard frequency and time signals.

Confirmed invited speakers

Ronald Beard, Chairman of ITU-R WP 7A, U.S. Naval Research Laboratory, USA;

Felicitas Arias, The International Bureau of Weights and Measures (BIPM);

Brian Luzum, Chairman of the IERS Directing Board, U.S. Naval Observatory, USA;

Peter Whibberley, National Physical Laboratory, UK;

Mizuhiko Hosokawa, President of IAU Commission 31, Executive Director at the National Institute of Information and Communications Technology, Japan;

Claude Boucher, The International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG);

Jörg Hahn, Galileo Programme and Navigation-related activities European Space Agency;

Włodzimierz Lewandowski, The International Bureau of Weights and Measures (BIPM);

Koichi Shibata, Time Business Forum, Japan.

Judah Levine, National Institute of Standards and Technology, U.S.A.
