# INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION

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**Administrative Circular**
**CACE/554**

13 January 2012

**To Administrations of Member States of the ITU, Radiocommunication Sector Members, ITU-R Associates participating in the work of Radiocommunication Study Group 4 and ITU-R Academia**

**Subject:** **Radiocommunication Study Group 4 (Satellite services)**

– **Approval of 2 new ITU-R Questions**

– **Suppression of 2 ITU-R Questions**

By Administrative Circular CAR/324 of 12 October 2011, 2 draft new ITU-R Questions were submitted for approval by correspondence in accordance with Resolution ITU-R 1-5 (§ 3.4). In addition, the Study Group proposed the suppression of 2 ITU-R Questions.

The conditions governing this procedure were met on 12 January 2012.

The texts of the approved Questions are attached for your reference (Annexes 1 and 2) and will be published in Revision 2 to Document 4/1 which contains the ITU-R Questions approved by the 2007 Radiocommunication Assembly and assigned to Radiocommunication Study Group 4. The suppressed ITU-R Questions are indicated in Annex 3.

François Rancy
Director, Radiocommunication Bureau

**Annexes:** 3

Distribution:

- Administrations of Member States of the ITU and Radiocommunication Sector Members participating in the work of Radiocommunication Study Group 4
- ITU-R Associates participating in the work of Radiocommunication Study Group 4
- ITU-R Academia
- Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of Radiocommunication Study Groups and Special Committee on Regulatory/Procedural Matters
- Chairman and Vice-Chairmen of the Conference Preparatory Meeting
- Members of the Radio Regulations Board
- Secretary-General of the ITU, Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau, Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

# Annex 1

## QUESTION ITU-R 289/4

## Interactive satellite broadcasting systems (television, sound and data)*, **

(2011)

The ITU Radiocommunication Assembly,

*considering*

a) the progress in information processing, storage and transmission technology;

b) the development of advanced broadcasting transmission channels (cable, satellite master antenna, terrestrial relay, or direct satellite reception);

c) the development of enhanced and digital television systems using these channels;

d) the need within such systems of interactivity for multimedia applications;

e) interactivity could effectively extend the capability of TV receivers to provide access to Internet web content, thus help in bridging the digital divide between urban and rural areas;

f) the increasing opportunities to introduce new types of data broadcasting and video streaming;

g) the development of transmission methods suitable for use in receiving from viewers return information related to the programme material (vision, sound and data);

h) the large number of domestic receivers likely to be impacted by the adoption of interactive satellite services and the resulting need for a common world-wide system architecture,

*decides* that the following Questions should be studied

**1** What are the possible methods and channels for interactive satellite broadcasting systems received through cable, satellite master antenna, terrestrial relay, switched network or direct satellite reception?

**2** What interactive services (or near-interactive services) are likely to be needed and what are their requirements for the return channel?

**3** What are the appropriate management methods and transmission means techniques that could be employed for such return channels?

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* This Question should be brought to the attention of the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), the International Standardization Organization (ISO) and the Telecommunication Standardization Sector of the ITU and to Radiocommunication Study Groups 5 and 6.

** This Question should be studied in conjunction with Question ITU-R 285/4.

**4** What methods could be adopted to utilize existing frequency band allocations for such return data channels, in order to achieve conservation of resources required?

**5** What are the commonalities for such return data channels with those being adopted for other interactive television broadcasting systems?

**6** What possibilities exist for the world-wide adoption of common return channel capabilities to operate under different transmission media and what technical parameters for return data channels are appropriate in various types of interactive satellite broadcasting systems?

**7** What are the possible return link protocols used for interactive and non-interactive applications?

**8** What characteristics needed for interactive satellite services should be identified to increase the flexibility of such systems?

**9** What are the performance parameters, i.e. quality of service (QoS) parameters?

**10** What provisions could be incorporated to facilitate anonymous reception of broadcast programmes by consumers not wishing to invoke interactivity?

**11** What is the most appropriate method for the network synchronization when using interactive satellite broadcasting channel?

NOTE – See Recommendations ITU-R BT.1434 and ITU-R BT.1435,

*further decides*

**1** that the results of the above studies should be included in appropriate Reports and/or Recommendations;

**2** that the studies should be completed by 2013.

Category: S1

# Annex 2

## QUESTION ITU-R 290/4

## Broadcasting-satellite means for public warning, disaster mitigation and relief

(2011)

The ITU Radiocommunication Assembly,

*considering*

a) the natural tragedies due to earthquakes and their consequences, alongside the possible role of radiocommunications in disaster relief;

b) the initiative of the Secretary-General of ITU to contribute to global efforts in order to reduce the effects of possible future disasters;

c) the general aspects of telecommunications associated with such disasters including, *inter alia*, prediction, detection, alerting and the organization of relief efforts;

d) the existence of numerous radiocommunication systems and the availability of a large equipment base at the present time;

e) the need for compatibility of radiocommunication systems for public warning, disaster mitigation and relief with current and future receivers,

*decides* that the following Questions should be studied

**1** What broadcasting-satellite systems are available for disseminating information and advising small or large populations and, potentially, across national borders?

**2** What frequency bands, assigned to the broadcasting-satellite service may be used for disseminating information and advising small or large populations and, potentially, across national borders?

**3** What satellite broadcasting equipment is currently available for use in the event of a major disaster?

**4** What procedures currently exist to coordinate the efforts of broadcasting-satellite operators at an international level?

**5** What actions do satellite broadcasters around the world currently take in response to major disasters?

**6** What are the technical requirements for future radiocommunication broadcasting-satellite systems to be used for public warning, disaster mitigation and relief?

*further decides*

**1** that the results of the above studies should be included in appropriate Reports and/or Recommendations;

**2** that the above studies should be completed by 2013.

NOTE – This activity should be coordinated with other Study Groups in particular with ITU-T Study Group 2 and ITU-D Study Group 2.

Category: S1

# Annex 3

## Suppressed ITU-R Questions

| Question ITU-R | Title | Category | Date of last approval |
|---|---|---|---|
| 21/6 | Characteristics of receiving systems in the broadcasting-satellite service (sound and television) | S2 | 07/02/2002 |
| 23/6 | Characteristics of systems in the broadcasting-satellite service (sound) for individual reception by means of portable and vehicular receivers | S2 | 07/02/2002 |