

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION

Radiocommunication Bureau

(Direct Fax No. +41 22 730 57 85)



Circular Letter

CR/143

2 May 2000

To Administrations of Members States of the ITU

Subject: Information on the delay in the implementation of the **TerRaSys** Project

References: BR Circular letter No. CR/128 dated 9 September 1999
BR Circular letter No. CR/138 dated 14 February 2000
BR Circular letter No. CA/77 dated 1 March 2000

To the Director-General

Dear Sir or Madam,

1. The Radiocommunication Bureau provided information in Circular letters CR/128 and CR/138 about the cutover of various portions from **FMS** to **TerRaSys** that occurred on 29 August 1999 (for the FM/TV portion that comprises the VHF and UHF broadcasting) and 12 December 1999 (for the LF/MF portion that comprises the LF/MF broadcasting and for the FXM portion that comprises the fixed, mobile and other services). It was also indicated that, as of 11 January 2000, the new "BR International Frequency Information Circular" (BR IFIC), which is published in CD-ROM format in pursuance of Resolution 30(WRC-97), integrates both terrestrial and space services and is the sole regulatory publication resulting from the application of the relevant provisions of the Radio Regulations and the associated Regional Agreements. With Circular letter CA/77, the Bureau communicated to you the Operational Plan for the ITU-R Sector for the year 2000, in which it was indicated that the Bureau expected to commence publication of the FXM notices, in Part I of the BR IFIC (acknowledgment of receipt), by 31 March 2000.

2. The Bureau regrets to inform you that the development of the relevant software is delayed and the Bureau is not yet in a position to publish, in Part I of the BR IFIC, the acknowledgment of receipt of notices in the LF/MF broadcasting and in the fixed and mobile services. The reasons for such a delay are numerous and some of them are outside the Bureau's control. They include the following:

- The Bureau was informed rather late in the TerRaSys development process about the incompatibility of the ITU mainframe configuration (Siemens BS2000 / IDMS CA) with the Year-2000 requirements. As the mainframe computer was phased out at the end of 1999, the Bureau was left without an appropriate tool for publishing the notices in the LF/MF and FXM components. Furthermore, some software development resources had to be re-assigned for early migration of several tasks from the mainframe computer to PC, to the detriment of TerRaSys development;

- The conversion of the database from the FMS format to TerRaSys format took longer than estimated, due to the need to correct appropriately the inconsistent data in the FMS format, as well as numerous duplicate assignments in the MIFR. As indicated in previous circular letters on this subject, the concept of the new TerRaSys is based on several essential assumptions, one of them being the absence of duplicates.

3. Therefore, and in accordance with No. S11.28, the Bureau informs your Administration that all frequency notices in the fixed and mobile services, as well as those in the LF/MF broadcasting services, which were received in TerRaSys format after 1 October 1999, are still in the pre-validation stage. Their publication in Part I of the BR IFIC is expected to commence by 1 July 2000, under the assumption that the database conversion will be completed by that date as well as the other related software modules (data validation, target management, etc.). However, should this objective become unattainable by that date, the Bureau would implement some temporary solutions so as to comply with the requirements of No. S11.28 concerning the time limit for publication in Part I of the BR IFIC and inform all administrations accordingly.

4. The delay in implementing this phase of the TerRaSys project would certainly result in delay in implementing other phases that are indicated in the Operational Plan (please refer to section 3.6, CA/77). The Bureau is unable to devote more resources to software development for terrestrial services (due to budget limitations and other priorities). In order to shorten the delay in the implementation of the remaining phases of the TerRaSys project, the Bureau would very much appreciate it if your Administration could consider the option of providing appropriate assistance by seconding to the Bureau experienced engineers/programmers, with thorough knowledge of Ingres databases and C++ programming, who could assist the TerRaSys team in software development, at no cost to the ITU. Such an approach, which was followed in some other projects (e.g., HFBC development), proved to be beneficial for both the Bureau and the administrations, because the assistance enabled the Bureau and the administrations to commence the implementation of the relevant Conference decisions on a timely basis. I would greatly appreciate receiving relevant information on possible candidates (curriculum vitae, possible duration of detachment, possible date when they may be available) to Mr M. Giroux, Deputy Director and Head of the Informatics, Administration and Publication Department (phone: 730-5313; e mail: michel.giroux@itu.int).

5. I remain at your disposal for any further information you may have in this respect. I also use this occasion to inform you that the Bureau will continue to provide, free of charge, the on-line availability (through TIES) of the BR IFIC data (terrestrial services), in the format described in CR/138.

Yours faithfully,

Robert W. Jones
Director
Radiocommunication Bureau

Distribution:

- Administrations of Members States of the ITU
- Members of the Radio Regulations Board