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| **World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-19)Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, 28 October – 22 November 2019** |  |
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| PLENARY MEETING | **Addendum 22 toDocument 92-E** |
|  | **7 October 2019** |
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| India (Republic of) |
| Proposals for the work of the conference |
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| Agenda item 9.2 |

9 to consider and approve the Report of the Director of the Radiocommunication Bureau, in accordance with Article 7 of the Convention:

9.2 on any difficulties or inconsistencies encountered in the application of the Radio Regulations[[1]](#footnote-1)\*; and

APPEAL TO WRC-19 REGARDING VALIDITY EXTENSION OF THE INSAT-EXK82.5E SATELLITE NETWORK

Background

Satellite communication systems are indispensable for the Administration of India to address the societal needs for its citizens in application areas like tele-education, tele-medicine in the vast areas of the country including hilly and island regions and remote areas. India requires a substantial amount of satellite capacity under its administration to address its national needs aimed at improvement of quality of life of its citizens covered under various welfare schemes of the government of India.

An important factor in this planning process is to establish the required national space infrastructure with an affordable cost. Such an endeavour leads to India aggressively working towards building indigenous launch vehicles and satellite manufacturing capabilities using its own talent pool. An equally important factor in realising the space infrastructure is acquiring the required orbit-spectrum resources commensurate with the needs of India. Towards this, India has taken steps within the ambit of ITU. Due to commercial exploitation of the unplanned band over India and overcrowding of the C- and Ku-bands, the Administration of India is compelled to adopt alternate measures like using the planned band over India.

INSAT-EXK82.5E at 82.5°E

The INSAT-EXK82.5E satellite network at 82.5°E in FSS planned Ku-band was made on 30 March 2009 and expiry date of bringing into use of the frequency assignments of this filing was 30 March 2017.

The Indian administration had completed all the necessary regulatory procedures required for registration of spectrum, ITU RR AP30B PART-B filing, Notification and Due Diligence filing to ITU on 15 March 2017.

Occupation of orbital slot 82.5°E

India could launch and operate the GSAT-19 satellite since June 2017, i.e. about two months after the validity period of the satellite network. India had requested in March 2017 the extension of the validity period of the satellite network up to December 2017 due to unforeseen problems in the designated indigenous launch vehicle.

India successfully resolved all issues and conducted the successful launch of the satellite GSAT‑19 in June 2017, itself demonstrating the intent of launching the satellite at the earliest. The satellite was successfully operating in this orbital slot till January 2018.

Efforts to occupy the orbital slot 82.5°E

India planned the realization of the satellite and launch vehicle during the first quarter of 2017 so as to bring the satellite into use within the validity period of the satellite network. In pursuance with the Government policy of the self-sustenance in developing space infrastructure, the satellite was realized indigenously and the indigenous launch vehicle GSLV Mk-III was assigned for the launch of the satellite.

While the realization of the satellite as well as the launch vehicle was proceeding successfully as per the plan, developmental and qualification tests towards flight worthiness associated with the launch vehicle took longer than expected, resulting in delayed readiness of the launch vehicle.

Considering the importance of fulfilling the BIU criterion for this network, India took advance action, in parallel (Request for Proposal floated in December 2016), towards leasing the spacecraft capacity from other parties in order to circumvent such an eventuality. However, no technically suitable responses were received satisfying the BIU requirements.

Hence, India took all possible efforts to bring in the satellite within the validity period. However, the satellite could be operated only about two months after the validity period due to reasons, which are within the ambit of the *Force Majeure* as described hereunder:

 Deployment of the satellite was only about two months after the validity period due to delay in readiness of the launch vehicle, which was identified to be an indigenous launch vehicle as part of the Indian Government policy and efforts in achieving self-reliance. The launch vehicle realization was pursued with reasonable confidence on the associated schedules. Unexpected and unforeseen delays, occurred during the qualification testing of the launch vehicle, were beyond the control of the Administration of India at that point in time. It was impossible to launch the satellite without certifying the flight-worthiness. Parallel efforts made by Administration of India to buy the suitable alternate in-orbit satellite capacity, in the event of delay in launch vehicle readiness, were unsuccessful. The BIU fulfilment by the satellite operator was deemed to be impossible as the delay ensued close to the deadline.

Proposal

The Administration of India brings out the following for the WRC considerations:

‒ Article 44 of the ITU Constitution states that the special needs of the developing countries and the geographical situation of particular countries need to be taken into account.

‒ The development of indigenous technology is indispensable to provide telecommunication services to meet the demands of the general public in an efficient and cost effective manner as envisaged in the constitution of ITU.

‒ The satellite network INSAT-EXK82.5 E has frequency assignments in the Planned Ku‑band, which are the mainstay towards meeting the communication needs of a country such as India with diverse demographics in an efficient manner.

‒ The Administration of India has made sincere and reasonable attempts to fulfil the obligations as stipulated by the Radio regulations.

In view of the above and the reasons explained for the delayed deployment of its satellite, the Indian administration requests WRC to consider granting post-facto extension of the INSAT-EXK82.5E satellite network from 30 March 2017 to 30 June 2017 and requests the ITU BR to consider processing the notification and Due Diligence of the associated satellite networks.

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1. \* This agenda item is strictly limited to the Report of the Director on any difficulties or inconsistencies encountered in the application of the Radio Regulations and the comments from administrations. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)