

RSGB EMC COMMITTEE

Minutes of meeting of 17th March 2016, held over Skype

On line:

Dr John Rogers M0JAV (Chair)
Colin Richards G3YCR
Robin Page-Jones G3JWI
John Woodhouse G6GPF

Richard Marshall G3SBA
Alan Melia G3NYK
Brendan Minish EI6Z/G7CUW
Dr Martin Sach G8KDF

1. General

1.1 CR agreed to take the minutes in RT's absence.

1.2 Apologies for absence:

Rupert Thorogood G3KKT
Dr David Lauder G0SNO

Hilary Claytonsmith G4JKS

1.3 Chairman's remarks

JR noted the output from the 2015 amateur radio survey's questions on EMC. One third of respondents noted they had unresolved interference issues. EMC was the second highest topic in the order of respondents' concerns. However, only 1% had reported their interference problems to us. We had some concerns over the accuracy of some sources reported, for example the high number of supposed PLT problems, but the number of plasma TVs had seen a resurgence. The results will give us an opportunity to publish key messages about spectrum pollution. They may be useful to give to BSI for CISPR and perhaps to go alongside an expected article by Ofcom (see 2.1).

1.4 Previous meetings minutes.

Approved.

1.5 Matters Arising not on agenda

The committee gave general approval to JR's proposed programme note on services provided by EMCC (circulated 22.1.16).

2. Key Issues

2.1 Feedback from Ofcom meeting 15 March.

JR reported that Ofcom had said that the WTA s54 Regulations, consulted on a year ago, would be published very soon. Although very welcome, if they only covered a narrow definition of "apparatus" in EMCD terms, that would leave a major hole in their scope. We would need to examine them carefully and consider how to respond. Ofcom were to have an article about the Regulations in RadCom.

Ofcom said they were setting three conditions to act under the Regs.

1. Harmful interference needed to be demonstrated;
2. All reasonable steps had to be taken to reduce/alleviate the interference at the receiver;
3. There had to be a realistic prospect of an outcome.

The committee accepted that 1 and 2 were conditions in s54. However, while undue and harmful interference are defined in WTA, Ofcom appeared to want to have stringent additional tests - previously, well supported, even statistically analysed, cases had been dismissed. It was accepted that in some cases obvious steps could be taken to alleviate interference, but what was "reasonable" in the amateur context had to be carefully considered. If these conditions were met condition 3 appeared a *non sequitur*, as Ofcom would then be able to serve a close down notice on the operator of interfering apparatus, which would itself constitute success.

JR reported discussions on how we could help Ofcom further and assist with case handling.

2.2 Spectral Signatures

JR circulated example templates that he intended to present to the Leadership Team on 19th March. These would be linked to the diagnostic chart to be put on the EMC web pages. JR asked for volunteers to draft notes for the signature sheets, guidance notes and diagnostic charts
ACTION – ALL.

2.3 xDSL Software

MS had circulated a further version. He asked for feedback on what could make it better – eg spectrum analysis using an SDRplay, noise cancelling.
ACTION – ALL.

MS was thanked for this work and asked to produce a note on how to use the software and a glossary
ACTION – MS.

2.4 Noise Floor Study

The Board was not pursuing this for the present but there was an option to raise an alternative project when resources allowed.

2.5 Priorities with Limited Resources for Standards Representation

The committee discussed the available resources and how to deploy them best. RM proposed that there were sufficient resources to keep a watching brief over a long time scale. All those involved should be gradually introduced to GEL210/11. ACTION – AM to liaise with RM and MS on how to handle the next 12 months as JW will be abroad for much of the time.

3. REPORTS

3.1 Advisers

Ken G3SDW's report was accepted with thanks.

3.2 Lobbying

The sub-group's report was accepted.

3.3 Standards

MS reported on that day's GEL210/11. Overall BSI were trying to cut down on un-necessary work.

GEL210/11 endorsed Thilo Kootz (DL9KCE) as IARU CISPR H rep.

BSI may not be able to fund anyone to go to the China CISPR plenary.

There was a question over whether EN55061-1 covered MIMO operation. BSI had proposed a work item on this. It was noted that neither UK nor Ireland mains practice supported a MIMO path.

Noted that GEL210/11 will now receive ETSI EMC docs.

Noted that York Uni. were hosting an IEEE meeting on EMC Research on 5 May and that they had made a call for papers..

RM co-authored a paper with Knight and Rayner on differential mode measurements. This was discussed at the GEL210/11 meeting.

Noted that Ikea stocked some 25 WP products. It was not clear what frequencies or standards these met. ACTION – R P-J to purchase a selection.

3.4 Publications

Report accepted. The committee discussed the docs. needed for the new reporting and diagnosis approach.

3.5 Investigations

Report accepted.

JR explained that a new process had been agreed with BT whereby EMCC would channel cases of VDSL interference from own and neighbours lines to Openreach for them to check line balance. The process needed to be proven before being offered. It will be made available to other commercial providers and Ofcom. JR was congratulated on this progress.

There was short discussion on LED lights compliance.

4. AOB

BM reported that the Irish standards body had submitted a “no” vote on EN55061-3.

NEXT MEETING – 19th May over Skype.

Colin Richards

EMCC

20/3/2016