



## EMC Committee Report 2016

Our aims are to **provide advice and support** to members who suffer from EMC problems and to **protect the spectrum** from Radio Frequency Interference (RFI)

**Advice** is provided through the EMC Help-Desk (100 cases per annum) to identify what the interference is, when it is active and to locate where it comes from. The EMC matters forum (over 100.000 views per annum) allows members to share problems and help each other by suggesting solutions. Updated information is provided through web pages, RadCom articles (25 pages in the last year) and society handbooks. An update on recording and reporting RFI was presented at the RSGB Convention.

To **protect the spectrum**, we **investigate** emerging sources of RFI pollution; we work on **standards** committees to specify acceptable RFI levels; we **Lobby** regulators, suppliers and service providers to reduce RFI emissions.

During 2016 **investigations** group submitted their xDSL broadband report to BT and Ofcom highlighting the Harmful Interference it can cause and recommending steps to be taken to reduce its impact. Other areas investigated included LED floodlights, emergency lighting, digital inverter kitchen devices and air source heat pumps. These are regularly reported in the EMC matters articles in RadCom.

**Standards** work has suffered from staff changes but successful recruitment has strengthened the team to six volunteers, this will allow more progress in 2017. Contacts have been made with a view to joint IARU/RSGB participation in the 2018 CISPR International Congress in Manchester.

### Lobbying

We presented three papers at IARU region 1 meeting. We have continued to lobby Ofcom pointing out how they could improve the new Section 54 regulations for in service equipment and requesting them to pursue harmful interference cases. We have recently had some success with them acting against noisy switched mode power supplies but have not persuaded them to pursue the three biggest problem areas VDSL2, Solar PV and Windturbines.

**Publications** were updated but a major revamp of the emc pages on the website is planned for 2017. We are preparing diagnostic tools and guidance on how to identify the new causes of interference not covered by our current advice, these will form the basis of updated self-help pages.

To improve our service, we need to focus our investigative efforts into a few critical areas next year while providing a continuously improving EMC Help Desk / Forum service

Our objectives for next year include building a database of EMC signatures to help members self-diagnose their problems; preparing a lobbying strategy including a public campaign to reduce electronic pollution. We see this pollution having as serious an impact on the spectrum now as fog/smog did at the time of the industrial revolution.

The workload in this area is increasing rapidly as more and more RSGB members seek help with interference. If you can help us in any way to fight this pollution, please contact

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Dr John AV Rogers, M0JAV EMC Committee Chairman  
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