

WHITE PAPER

- CONSIDERATIONS FOR CHARTER WITH SATELLITE COMMUNITY -

Background

Today, when an emergency strikes anywhere across the globe, the Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) network kicks into action deploying people and equipment necessary to provide urgent communications services to the humanitarian community. Tomorrow, this won't be enough.

By 2020, the ETC will create an emergency response environment that provides humanitarians, citizens and governments with a seamless, resilient and principled communications experience.

Context

Following the ETC meeting in Dubai, the ETC has elaborated requirements for the satellite community to consider ahead of the business consultation on 9th - 10th June 2015 in Luxembourg. This White Paper sets out those requirements, which the satellite community is invited to react to during the consultation and complement with its own suggestions.

Today when disaster strikes, the satellite proposition - while central to the communications effort - could be better coordinated with a view to partners providing end-to-end solutions that can be immediately deployed in the field. In this context the vision of the ETC can be described as follows:

<p>The creation and implementation of a mechanism that can be triggered by the ETC when needed that leads to coherent, predictable, end-to-end implementation of a satellite-based response.</p>

ETC requirements:

1. Efficient engagement with the Satellite Community in the initial phases of emergency and thereafter as needed
2. Delivery of end to end solutions (including FSS, MSS, VSAT) from procurement to installation including technical support in the field by the Satellite Community
3. Provision of reliable, robust services not tied to a specific type of band (L, C, Ku, Ka, X all considered) as long as they provide a minimum standard (TBD by the ETC service catalogue) noting the periodic desire for high-data rates
4. Central mapping of resources (e.g. geographic coverage, available capacity, location of nearest provider or installer, etc.) and alignment to enable delivery of end to end solutions
5. Definition of conditions attached to the provision of end to end solutions - could be donation under a CSR framework (e.g. emergency airtime package or X months for free) or on a contractual basis (e.g. transition to commercial service after the initial phase of the emergency)
6. Coordination of the Satellite Community through ESOA and GVF with appropriate sharing of roles and responsibilities based on the respective composition and expertise of the two associations
7. Provision of training for international or local ICT experts (online or in person) and capacity building for governments and local response community (in high risk countries) by Satellite Community.
8. Support of simulations in high risk countries to improve preparedness by Satellite Community

Approach to 9 - 10 June Business Consultation:

The Business Consultation will take the following approach:

Day 1:

1. Understanding how both the satellite community and the humanitarian community perceive the satellite contribution to disasters by reference to concrete examples and identifying where there is room for improvement
2. Discussing essential components of a dedicated mechanism for the provision of end-to-end solutions

Day 2:

3. Business challenges: Satellite connectivity in tomorrow's disasters
4. Taking a closer look at the ETC requirements and discussing how to turn the inputs of the mapping tool into a coherent mechanism that can be triggered by the ETC

