

Amsat-UK Report to the Spectrum Committee
July 2004

Satellites:

There are currently 14 fully operational amateur satellites plus another 11 that are semi-operational (not counting the TWO amateur stations on the International Space Station). The latest amateur satellite (Amsat-Oscar-51) was launched last week and is currently being commissioned. Most satellite bands between 21 MHz and 24 GHz have had activity in the past few years.

Spectrum issues:

There are some issues with intruders (foreign taxis, cordless phones etc) interfering with operations. IARU-MS picked up this baton at the recent Vienna Conference.

It remains a long-term aim of all the world's Amsats for the 23cm satellite band to be usable in both up and down directions; currently it can only be used for uplinking. We realise this is probably a forlorn hope in the near future.

What is Amsat-UK doing for Amateur Radio:

One of our declared aims is to support satellite activities. Late last year Amsat-UK donated £10,000 each to the new US spacecraft (launched last week) and to the German Amsat Phase-3E project. We are, at this moment, considering a donation to a European Space Agency student satellite project that could carry a transponder. We are also likely to contribute to an upcoming DxPedition.

Amsat-UK's representative on the Spectrum Committee may change soon; G3RWL is retiring.

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