



SUBJECT	23cms Narrowband Image and Data		
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Author:	Murray Niman, G6JYB		

Introduction

Modifications are proposed to the narrowband section of the 23cm bandplan to reflect modern usage and make it more flexible.

Background

Unlike other microwave bands, the 23cms bandplan has a significant number specific activity centres. Technology and usage have changed in recent years making some designations unhelpful, preventing flexibility.

The current 23cm Bandplan in the IARU-R1 VHF Handbook has the following usage notes:-

- 1296.400-1296.600 Linear transponder input
- 1296.500 SSTV
- 1296.600 RTTY
- 1296.700 FAX
- 1296.600-1296.800 Linear transponder output

Traditional RTTY and FAX are rarely used in 23cm compared to more modern MGM modes. Nowadays there is also little difference between SSTV and FAX, as both modes are commonly generated by computers and sound cards. Linear transponder usage has also declined significantly compared to modern purpose built radios or transverters (eg from DB6NT etc).

Key points and proposal

Unless they are amended the usage notes represent a disproportionately high proportion of the 23cm narrowband segment compared to other growing narrowband and beacon uses. We therefore propose amending the 23cm bandplan in this area to enable more flexible usage.

We propose merging the Fax and SSTV frequencies under an 'Image Centre' usage note. The modest level of activity makes this low risk. A similar more flexible note is proposed for RTTY. The transponder output note is also modified so that National Societies are freer to designate frequencies above 1296.700 for other purposes.

Recommendations

1. To consider the above and amend the 23cm bandplan usage notes as follows:-
 - a) 1296.500 Image Mode Centre of Activity (SSTV, Fax etc)
 - b) 1296.600 Narrowband Data Centre of Activity (MGM, RTTY etc)
 - c) 1296.600-1296.700 Linear Transponder output
2. To permit 1296.700-1296.800 to be used for alternative purposes