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**WORLD-WIDE NAVIGATIONAL WARNING SERVICE  
SUB-COMMITTEE  
Seventh Meeting (WWNWS 7)**

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**INTERNATIONAL HYDROGRAPHIC BUREAU  
Monaco  
24 – 27 August 2015**

**Captain Moin Ahmed  
Director General  
International Mobile Satellite Organization**

# Introduction

- Election of the new Director General
- Restructuring of the IMSO Directorate
- Mr Andy Fuller, Deputy Director General, retired in August 2014

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## IMSO today

- Main responsibilities:
  - Overseeing the recognized GMDSS services provided by Inmarsat
  - Acting as the LRIT Coordinator in the LRIT system
  - Participating in the work of IMO and other international bodies/foras on all GMDSS and LRIT-related matters



## IMSO and WWNWS

- IMSO attended many previous meetings of WWNWS and some previous meeting of CPRNW
- Provided information with regard to the oversight of Inmarsat (COMSAR 17/5/1)
- Also provided information on the proposal by US to IMO MSC for the recognition of Iridium as the new GMDSS service provider

## **GMDSS** Global Maritime Distress and Safety System

- Since privatization of Inmarsat in 1999 IMSO has submitted regular reports to the former IMO Sub-Committee on COMSAR and the recently restructured Sub-Committee on NCSR on the GMDSS performance of Inmarsat (NCSR 1/18 and 2/14/1)
- Next report will be submitted to NCSR 3 (Feb-2016)

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## GMDSS Iridium application

- US notified MSC 92 (June 2013) of its intention to sponsor Iridium's bid to become the next GMDSS provider
- Formal application by US submitted to NCSR 1 (July 2014)
- MSC 94 requested IMSO to undertake the technical and operational assessment

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## GMDSS Iridium application

- IMSO will report back to NCSR Sub-Committee with the outcome of its assessment
- Scope of the assessment is based on resolution A.1001(25) and MSC.1/Circ.1414
- IMSO's work is being overseen by the IMO Secretariat

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## GMDSS Iridium application

- IMSO convened a group of Experts (GoE)
- GoE started their work straightaway after MSC 94
- GoE visited Iridium facilities April 2015
- IMSO aims to complete the assessment in Nov 2014 and submit its report to NCSR 3 for further consideration by the Sub-Committee

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## GMDSS Iridium application

- Iridium expressed intention to sign the Public Services Agreement (PSA) with IMSO to enable IMSO overseeing the performance of Iridium as a mobile satellite communication service provider in the GMDSS
- Iridium may become the new GMDSS service provider by MSC 96 (June 2016) at the earliest

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## GMDSS Iridium application

- With the potential for recognition of a new mobile-satellite communication service provider in the GMDSS, questions arise on the:
  - broadcast of MSI through both systems
  - any associated costs to the MSI providers
  - Means to monitor the broadcast of MSI by the NAV/MET area coordinators



## GMDSS Iridium application

- *Interoperability* between two or more satellite service providers needs to be defined by IMO
- terrestrial systems are expected to provide suitable interoperability
- Standard format for EGC messages may need to be determined to ensure unified implementation



## GMDSS Iridium application

- IMSO is closely working with all parties, including IMO/IMSO Member States, Iridium and Inmarsat, concerning the developments in the provision of mobile satellite communication services in the GMDSS
- IMSO also participates in the relevant meetings and correspondence groups to share its experience and to provide its inputs on matters concerning maritime safety and distress communications

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