

IMSO EXPERT / CONSULTANCY PROGRAMME

BACKGROUND

The International Mobile Satellite Organization (IMSO) is the intergovernmental organization which oversees the activities of mobile satellite communications providers in relation to the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS) and also acts as the Coordinator of the International System for the Long Range Identification and Tracking of Ships (LRIT).

IMSO INDEPENDENT GROUP OF EXPERTS

The IMSO Directorate shall maintain a list of experts having considerable practical operational and technical experience of maritime mobile satellite systems and the GMDSS. The experts should also have knowledge and understanding of IMO, ITU and IMSO procedures, standards and recommendations.

The Director General may convene an Group of Experts to verify and evaluate information provided concerning a specific maritime mobile satellite system offered for use in the GMDSS, in relation to the relevant requirements and recommendations of IMO, ITU, and IMSO. The Experts will also be expected to provide advice to the Director General accordingly. The Director General is also authorized to determine terms of engagement of external experts, consultants or advisors, in accordance with Article 12(4) of the IMSO Convention.

SECONDMENT OF EXPERTS/CONSULTANTS

The Director General therefore invites nominations of national and/or international experts and/or consultants that would be available to act as advisors to the Director General and/or members of such a potential Independent Group of Experts. Such experts and/or consultants should be a recognized authority or specialist in the specific field of maritime satellite communications, to undertake specific tasks, on a temporary basis, in support

the Organization's work in relation to specific tasks, programmes and/or missions that may be required in the field of its responsibilities.

The functions of the experts and/or consultants would be results-oriented and would typically involve providing advice or assistance in analysing technical and operational documentation, carrying out studies, preparing documents or writing reports on the matters within their areas of expertise.

Experts and/or consultants should be highly trained professionals with demonstrated experience in the technical/operational fields of maritime mobile satellite communications systems. Normally, an advanced university degree in a relevant field is required, together with several years of related and in-depth working experience. As the working language of the Organization is English, fluency in the English language is a requirement.

TERMS OF ASSIGNMENTS

Consultancy or temporary assignments would normally be home-based, and may require travel as part of the assignment. The duration of the assignments may vary between a few days to few weeks, depending on the requirements.

During the term of any assignment with IMSO, information of a confidential nature related to satellite communications providers, in respect of business, commercial, financial, legal, technical or other matters, may be received. Unless expressly authorized by the IMSO Director General, experts and/or consultants selected to carry out temporary assignments may not copy, use or distribute to a third party, other than to IMSO, any such information so received. Experts and/or consultants will be required to guarantee the protection of any confidential information by signing a non-disclosure agreement to that effect.

Such consultancy or temporary assignments will be on the basis of Government secondments, which would be at no cost to IMSO.

EXPERTISE REQUIREMENTS

Demonstrated expertise in one or more of the following matters is essential:

- technical and operational aspects of the provision of mobile satellite services, including collection and analysis of data and drafting of reports, and especially on the performance by satellite communication providers of availability of service, distress and priority calls and implementation by satellite communication providers of standards, services and systems in respect of GMDSS;
- participation in the work and activities of technical bodies of international organizations dealing with satellite communications and, in particular, with technical bodies of IMO and ITU on matters relevant to the provision of mobile satellite communications and the GMDSS;
- satellite design, launch operations, orbital characteristics, constellation types, payload operation (lifetimes, power maintenance, shadow effects etc.) - to provide an understanding of satellite lifetime and the continuity and evolution of the constellation(s), plus the options for reconfiguration in the event of a prime satellite or ground segment failure;
- spectrum issues affecting mobile satellite communications, and in particular detailed understanding of the spectrum allocations for the maritime mobile satellite service;
- design and operation of ground earth stations and the different requirements needed to serve satellites in the different types of orbit (GEO, MEO, LEO);
- maritime distress and safety operations and communications, including Search and Rescue Co-ordination and the operations of a Maritime or Joint Rescue Co-ordination Centre;
- legal issues, both international and national, affecting maritime mobile communications world-wide;

- detailed knowledge of all aspects of the GMDSS – Chapter IV of SOLAS and relevant IMO resolutions – and its practical application in ships and on shore;
- design and operation of satellite terminals for voice and data and their installation in ships.

REGISTRATION

Potential IMSO experts and/or consultants should register their interest and availability by filling and submitting the attached form to info@imso.org.
