

# Conferences and meetings

## ITU-R Working Party 6

**Working Party 6E (WP6E) of Study Group 6 of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) belongs to the radiocommunication sector and deals with terrestrial delivery of all broadcasting services. WP6E met from 31 March–7 April 2005 in Geneva, and Alastair Gellatly, Acting Director Engineering and Technology, represented the ABA.**

More than 80 participants considered 62 technical contributions and produced 41 documents at WP6E, which will form the basis for decision making at the next World Radiocommunication Conference to be held in 2007 (WRC-07).

WP6E formed six sub-working groups which covered matters relating to sound broadcasting, television broadcasting, regional radiocommunication conference (RRC-06) issues, general issues including WRC-07 agenda item 7.1, WRC-07 agenda item 1.11 and WRC-07 agenda item 1.13, and analog to digital transition.

Australia contributed six technical papers.

**6E/AUS1** *Field Survey Methodology for Digital Television Reception*

**6E/AUS2** *Planning Assumptions for Digital Terrestrial Television Broadcasting (DTTB)*

**6E/AUS3** *Proposed modifications to Recommendation ITU-R BT.1368 Planning Criteria for Digital Terrestrial Television Services in the VHF/UHF Bands*

**6E/AUS4** *Potential for interference in the 620-790 MHz Band from BSS Satellites into Terrestrial Television Broadcasting*

**6E/AUS5** *Proposed modifications to draft new report, 'Protection Requirements for Terrestrial Television Broadcasting Services in the 620-790 MHz Band Against Potential Interference from GSO and Non-GSO Broadcasting Satellite Systems and Networks'*

**6E/AUS6** *Use of MF & HF spectrum for disaster relief*

These were well received and usefully contributed to the work program of WP6E.

The working party approved a number of liaison statements (to other ITU-R working parties) covering a broad range of subjects such as possible sharing of frequency bands; potential interference from digital broadcasting signals; preparation

for RRC-06; and preparation for WRC-07.

One draft new question on disaster-relief communications looking at the broadcaster's role in response to major disasters was adopted.

Three draft revised recommendations were adopted and sent to Study Group 6 for consideration: *Technical basis for planning of terrestrial digital sound broadcasting in the VHF band*; *Transmission of multi-sound in terrestrial television systems PALB, D1, G, H and I, and SECAMD, K, K1 and L*; and *Characteristics of radiated signals of conventional analogue television*.

Three additional draft revised recommendations were adopted but as they relate to recommendations that are currently the subject of the approval process they could not be submitted to Study Group 6 for consideration at this time.

A significant amount of work was devoted to the following preparations.

**RRC-06:** the purpose of this is to develop a plan for VHF and UHF digital television and VHF digital radio for Europe and Africa. A number of planning exercises will be conducted before the conference and WP6E considered issues dealing with working assumptions regarding the missing criteria, parameters and protection ratio values for DVB-T to be used for compatibility analysis in the first planning exercise.

**WRC-07 agenda item 1.11** relating to broadcasting satellite service allocations in the 620-790 MHz band (widely used in Australia for UHF analog and digital television services). WP6E specifically deals with protection requirements for terrestrial television broadcasting services in this band against potential interference from geostationary orbit (GSO) and non-GSO broadcasting-satellite systems and networks. A preliminary draft report will

be attached to the chairman's report and work on this issue will continue at WP6E's next meeting in October 2005. Roger Bunch of FreeTV Australia played a major role in this work by chairing a sub-working group and filling the role of a rapporteur to advance the work between meetings.

**WRC-07 agenda item 1.13** relating to consideration of additional spectrum requirements for HF (or short wave) broadcasting. Nearly two dozen documents were addressed during the meeting with several output documents prepared for inclusion in the report of WP 6E. Other working parties that deal with the fixed and mobile services also have a keen interest in this topic and it is considered necessary for a coordinator group to be set up.

### Other issues of interest to Australia:

#### Digital radio

A contribution from Spain contained the results of a comprehensive test program of a Digital Radio Mondiale (DRM) service conducted in and around Madrid using a centre frequency of 1359 kHz in the MF band. The results show good coverage of built up areas can be achieved.

#### Coverage assessment for digital TV

WP6E considered and provided comment on a draft new recommendation on methods for objective quality coverage assessment of digital terrestrial television broadcasting signals developed by Working Party 6Q. The document was subsequently adopted by Study Group 6 and will now undergo the ITU-R formal approval process. This method is of interest to Australia for our assessment of the coverage achieved by Australian digital television services. ☐