

Portfolio or Agency mission/charter

ACMA's vision is to be known as an integrated, forward-looking, proactive and flexible organisation that is recognised as a leading communications regulator that supports and encourages an innovative and vibrant communications sector.

ACMA's strategic intent is to enable the communications needs of the Australian community to be met by supporting and encouraging an innovative and vibrant communications sector.

ACMA's goal is

- To manage an effective regulatory environment that:
 - supports a dynamic communications sector and
 - enables industry to meet the communications needs of the community.

Key objective/s with respect to space-related activity

To provide support and a regulatory framework for satellite services to Australia and to meet the communications needs of Australia's space sector and the Australian public.

Current space-related activities/responsibilities

ACMA is responsible for the following areas relating to space systems:

Regulation

- Regulating Australian satellite network communications (Australian satellite networks are those networks notified to the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) by ACMA), radiofrequency spectrum requirements of radio-astronomy sites, and Earth stations within Australian territory.
- Establishing licence arrangements for foreign satellite networks providing services to Australia.

Technical coordination

- Ensuring Australian satellite networks adhere to international agreements and provisions of the ITU, including Advance Publication, coordination and notification.
- Protecting Australian assignments in the Broadcasting-Satellite Service Plan and Fixed-Satellite Service Plan of the ITU.
- Supporting the introduction of Digital Sound Broadcasting by satellite.

Engineering

- Assessing the potential for interference between space and terrestrial services.
- Developing coordination criteria for satellite networks and Earth stations.

- Participating in international fora that study the technical characteristics of space systems and networks.

Policy and Regulatory Frameworks

- Providing advice to satellite operators and radio astronomers about national and international regulatory and engineering requirements.
- Providing advice to Government about regulatory and engineering requirements for Australian and foreign space systems.
- Manage the consultative processes associated with coordinating Australian radiocommunications industry and Government input to regional fora and, in accordance with the ACMA's statutory obligations, to treaty level instruments of the ITU Constitution, Convention and Radio Regulations.

Recent major achievements

In 2006-07 ACMA:

- provided advice on the proposed introduction of the European Union's Galileo global navigation system to Australia and issues relating to the US system, GPS;
- provided advice on the activities of the European Space Agency, National Aeronautics and Space Administration and Japanese Aerospace Exploration Agency as they relate to Australia;
- provided advice on the bid to have the most advanced radio telescope in the world, the Square Kilometre Array, based in Australia;
- assessed 2,238 proposals from other countries relating to new or modified satellite networks;
- amended the *Radiocommunications (Foreign Space Objects) Determination 2000* to reflect a change of company name from 'Binariang Satellite Systems SDN.BHD' to "Measat Satellite Systems Sdn.Bhd" and from 'New Skies Satellites B.V.' to "SES New Skies"; and
- participated at national, regional, and international meetings to prepare for the 2007 ITU World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-07) and supported the Australian delegation during October/November 2007 at WRC-07 on space related matters.

ACMA provides support for a number of Australian satellite systems that are established or planned for operation in the geostationary orbit, including:

- Department of Defence
 - DEF-R-SAT series
 - AUSSAT C Gov (Defence component of Optus C1) & AUSSAT C GOVR
 - ADF series
 - ADF West
- AsiaSpace Limited
 - AsiaBSS
 - AUSDSB

- AsiaBSS-B
- Optus Networks Pty Limited
 - Optus A series
 - Optus B series
 - Optus C series
 - Optus D series
- PanAmSat Asia Pty Ltd
 - PAS-ENDEAVOUR (10 orbital locations)
- Kagoe Communications Pty Limited
 - ROEBUCK series
- Broadcasting Satellite Service (BSS) List Filings (these were the subject of price-based allocations)
 - AUSBSS 152E
 - 164°E (AUSBSS 164E) remains unallocated

ACMA also provides support to the Australian networks operating or planned to operate in the non-geostationary orbits such as:

- Federation Satellite One (FEDSAT-1) (launched on 14 December 2002)
- S2COM
- Sirion

Portfolio/Agency expenditure on space-related activity

There is no specific budget for ACMA space-related activities. The budget allocation is at a team level and includes funds for the performance of other functions for which the team is responsible.

Legislation administered by portfolio/agency

- *Radiocommunications Act 1992* and associated subordinate instruments.
- *Telecommunications Act 1997* and associated subordinate instruments.
- *Broadcasting Services Act 1992* and associated subordinate instruments.
- *Telecommunications (Consumer Protection and Service Standards) Act 1999*
- Functions as conferred on ACMA by or under other legislation.

International space-related agreements:

Australia is a signatory to the ITU Constitution and Convention. ACMA fulfils part of Australia's obligations to this treaty level agreement.

ACMA has a role in implementing arrangements associated with the:

- *Agreement between the Government of Australia and the European Space Agency for a Co-Operative Space Vehicle Tracking Program.*
- *Agreement between the Government of Australia and the Government of the United States of America concerning Space Vehicle Tracking and Communication Facilities*

ACMA also provides advice on other international agreements which include/deal with radiocommunications issues.

Portfolio/Agency involvement in other space-related agreement/arrangements:

In order to ensure that it has the ability to meet its international obligations, ACMA enters into Deeds of Agreement (legally binding arrangements) with each Australian satellite operator. Deeds of Agreement are intended to provide regulatory certainty for both ACMA and satellite operators. ACMA currently has Deeds of Agreement representing many of the satellite networks that it has filed with the ITU on behalf of satellite operators.

This includes Deeds with AsiaSpace, Kagoe/Miraxis, S2COM, Sirion Global, and Optus .

ACMA also provides input to the Australian Government Space Forum and the GALILEO and ESA Inter-Departmental Committees.

Contact

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Further information on ACMA space-related matters is available from
http://www.acma.gov.au/WEB/STANDARD/pc=PC_300241

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