

# PSC Europe Forum

## SHARPS Working Group (Satellite and HApS for emergency and Public Safety communications)

### Meeting moderator and secretary

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**Meeting location:** telephone conference No.2 (TC2)

**Meeting start:** 01.10.2007 - 14:00

**Meeting end:** 01.10.2007 - 15:20

### Participants

Benoit Hap	Technologies Sans Frontières	benoit.hap@tipsoft.net
Rosalba Suffritti	CNIT	suffritti@lenst.det.unifi.it
Christine Leurquin	SES	christine.leurquin@ses.com
Laurent Franck	ENST Bretagne	laurent.franck@enst-bretagne.fr
Peter Maurutschek	GCS GmbH	pmm@gcs-salzburg.at
Nicolas Lewyckyj	VITO	nicolas.lewyckyj@vito.be

## TC2 Report

A brief introduction to the working group is given by Matteo together with a short summary of the activities performed since its creation, for the new participants. A modified meeting agenda is presented and agreed: presentation of the Tampere convention is moved to next meeting, as Philippe Boutry is not available today.

Experience from Telecom Sans Frontières (Benoit Hap) tells that satcom's were not used in recent disasters, so there is no real current/best practice in this field; in case of emergency, governments can be considered as special customers for communications service providers.

From the point of view of an operator (Christine Leurquin, SES), pre-emption of commercial capacity is a key solution; for example, an action with the US government was initiated by SES (Ready-sat service): a regular monthly fee is paid by the US, and in case of disaster, VSAT two-ways communication services are provided by SES Americom; it has never been activated, yet, but the agreement is in place. In Europe it is more difficult to sign a similar agreement, as there is no single reference government, but SES would be ready to "invest" resources to work in this direction.

Laurent Franck suggests integrating satellite capacity in daily operations, so that the rescue teams are trained.

Agreements with rescue organizations could be good for operators in order to plan capacity, but the relations to be setup are complex, e.g. with service providers, satellite terminals provider, terrestrial systems and telecom providers, etc...

Laurent Franck: It would be desirable to deploy systems capable to use terrestrial frequencies and to fall back on sat capacity if needed during emergency (ESA has some studies going on this topic).

To clarify all these points, it would be important to start working on a common document (the "SHARPS white paper"), but in order not to duplicate work, the ETSI SatEC first report should be carefully taken into account. Many technical points are already being described in the ETSI document (even if it may still be improved, also including recent ESA studies), and so it should be considered as a starting point to

identify which aspects need regulatory or political actions to make these systems become reality. The ETSI document is more user-driven (e.g. also preparedness is considered) rather than technology driven.

Rosalba Suffritti describes the activities of the SatEC working group, and the contents of the report. Matteo will distribute the document to the SHARPS meeting participants together with the minutes; further interested people should contact directly Pierre Loyer ([pierre.loyer@thalesalieniaspace.com](mailto:pierre.loyer@thalesalieniaspace.com)) to get the report, as it is now only available to ETSI members.

The next SatEC meeting will be on January, the 8<sup>th</sup>, in Sophia-Antipolis. Considering that in October 2007 there will be a physical SHARPS meeting, there seems to be no need to hold a joint SatEC-SHARPS physical meeting in January 2008.

EU Respond is another relevant European activity which is running, they are organizing an event on the 15th October 2007, in Brussels; Laurent Franck will be present and will report the EU Respond discussion to the following SHARPS meeting. Matteo will try to push Eliot Edwards (from EU Respond) to attend the next SHARPS working group to help clarifying.

A liaison statement between SHARPS and EU Respond will be included in the SHARPS charter.

Laurent highlighted that in SHARPS the relation to industries seems stronger than in EU Respond and SatEC; this advantage should be considered in defining SHARPS identity and SHARPS goals and challenges.

The SHARPS group agrees and it is willing to start a working document to clarify the points discussed and the issues identified in the charter. Anyway the start of the work on the document is delayed to November 2008 after the PSCE Forum general assembly in Portugal.

GCS, as a ground station and satellite equipment provider, has interested in contributing to the documents and to the work from its perspective.

Nicolas Lewyckyj advertises Pegasus newsletter, which is public and may be of interest for those looking for information about HAPs (<http://www.pegasus4europe.com>); interested people should notify via email Nicolas. It was also mentioned that it could be interesting to have contacts to HAPCOS people (<http://www.hapcos.org/>): some SHARPS members have good contacts to HAPCOS people, which can be provided to Nicolas. Nicolas will be responsible, in the SHARPS white paper, for the section(s) about HAPs; he will also try to get in touch with HAPCOS contacts.

Next SHARPS meeting is scheduled in October in Lisbon during the PSCE Forum general assembly, SHARPS members should receive a notification via the PSCE Forum website as soon as dates are confirmed, so everybody is invited to register on the PSCE Forum website ([www.psc-europe.eu](http://www.psc-europe.eu)) to get this information in due time.