REPLACEMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT

Secretariat Issue Paper # 31

Issue Paper Theme: **Major Equipment**

BACKGROUND

The 2020 Contingent-Owned Equipment (COE) Working Group recommended that the Secretariat carry out a study of the recurring costs and utilization of data, voice and/or bandwidth required for communication equipment provided under major equipment for operational purposes. Detailed proposal on how these costs may be covered have been submitted in Secretariat issue paper #13.

The review of existing Communications Equipment revealed that two satellite terminals equipment; Inmarsat type A and Inmarsat type M were now obsolete. The service provider, Inmarsat, has decommissioned these two services.

The Secretariat identified current services such as the Inmarsat BGAN (Broadband Global Area Network) portable earth station terminal and the Iridium Certus broadband portable earth station terminal that can replace both the Inmarsat type A and Inmarsat type M satellite terminals in the provision of voice and data services. Since this is an evolving service area, there will likely be other service providers entering the market; therefore, TCCs may possess similar type terminals from different service providers/manufacturers.

PROPOSAL

Communications Equipment – Satellite Equipment

The review of existing Communications Equipment revealed that two satellite terminals equipment, namely, Inmarsat type A and Inmarsat type M were obsolete. The service provider, Inmarsat, had decommissioned these two services.

The Secretariat identified other current services such as the Inmarsat BGAN (Broadband Global Area Network) portable earth station terminal and the Iridium Certus broadband portable earth station terminal as suitable replacements capable of providing voice and data services that can replace both the Inmarsat type A and Inmarsat type M satellite terminals. Since this is an evolving service, there will likely be other service providers entering the market, therefore TCCs may possess similar type terminals from different service providers.

It is recommended that both Inmarsat A, portable earth station and Inmarsat type M, portable earth station terminals be replaced with Inmarsat BGAN (Broadband Global Area Network) portable earth station terminal and Iridium Certus broadband earth station terminal or similar equipment that can provide both voice and data facilities.

The Generic Fair Market Value (GFMV) is to be determined. A suitable commercially available Inmarsat BGAN terminal costs USD $4,680 on a UN entity systems contract and USD $7,895 and USD $9,295 on online

commercial vendors. A suitable commercially available Iridium Certus terminal costs USD $5,665 on a UN entity contract and between USD $6,995 and USD $8195 from online commercial vendors. Prices for military specification BGAN terminals are unavailable on the UN contracts or online.

PROPOSED MANUAL TEXT

It is proposed to amend COE Manual, Chapter 8, Annex A, as follows:

Delete:
Inmarsat type A, portable earth station
Inmarsat type M, portable earth station

Insert[1]:
Below are indicative Monthly Wet Lease Rates based on either the UN entity systems contract or averaged online commercial contracts for both systems.

Category of Equipment	Type of equipment	Generic fair market Value	Estimated useful life in years	Maintenance Rate	Monthly Dry lease rate	Monthly Wet Lease Rate	No Fault Incident Factor (Percentage)
Satellite Equipment	Inmarsat BGAN (Broadband Global Area Network), portable earth station	Commercial 8,595	7	**34**	106	**140**	0.5
	Inmarsat BGAN (Broadband Global Area Network), portable earth station	UN systems contract 4680	7	**34**	58	**92**	0.5
	Iridium Certus Broadband, portable earth station	Commercial 7,595	7	**31**	94	**125**	0.5
	Iridium Certus Broadband, portable earth station	UN systems contract 5665	7	**31**	70	**101**	0.5

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Both the Inmarsat BGAN and Iridium Certus Broadband both have voice and data capability and are suitable replacements for both the Inmarsat Type A and Type M equipment. There are currently only three (3) Inmarsat Type A and 20 Inmarsat Type M deployed across UN missions. Both the BGAN and Iridium equipment types have a lower GFMV than the current Inmarsat Type A and Type M portable earth stations and therefore, would achieve a saving to current UN operating costs. The level of savings would be in the order of approximately $50,000 (USD) dependent on the GFMV attributed the respective equipment type in question.

[1] Only potential new lines to be inserted in Annex A are included in the above table.

PREVIOUS HISTORY

This issue has not been raised to the COE Working Group previously.