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Keep in touch – contact information.

Remember, our door is always open to our members. For more information about JRC and what we can do for your business or if you wish to be added/removed from our distribution list or your details are incorrect, please e-mail us at jrc.news@jrc.co.uk or telephone Angella Montoute on 0207 963 5782.

Telephone number changes

Please note that from 22nd April 2000 the old central London 0171 dialling code will be replaced by 0207 and the outer London 0181 with 0208.

JRC Staff

Anita Lad joined the JRC team at the beginning of the year. She replaces Paula Murphy who has return to Ireland with her husband and new daughter Saoirse.

The JRC Team

The full team is pictured below in the foyer of the recently renamed "30 Millbank" headquarters. From the left:

Adrian Grilli:	Managing Director 020 7963 5860
David Priestley:	Telemetry Manager 020 7963 5886
Angella Montoute:	Licensing Manager 020 7963 5782
Anita Lad:	Office Manager 020 7963 5797
Simon Parsons:	PMR Manager 020 7963 5806



Facilities available at 30 Millbank

JRC members who find themselves in London but have a hole in their diaries may be able to get some help. A spare desk, phone, fax, PC and PC is usually available together with tea, coffee and the fabulous EA canteen. We may also be able to help with overnight accommodation in the Westminster area, and there is also limited parking at 30 Millbank.

For assistance, contact Angella Montoute on 0207 963 5782.

Utilities Radio Conference and Exhibition

Tuesday 13th and Wednesday 14th June 2000 will see the second Utilities Radio Conference and Exhibition (URC2000). The venue will be the Hanover International Hotel at Hinckley in Leicestershire, conveniently situated beside the M69 and A5, close to the M1, M6, M42 and M45. Hinckley has its own railway station, with Nuneaton and Birmingham International within easy reach for mainline services. Birmingham International and East Midland Airports offer a choice for jet-setting executives.

Key speakers are being lined up for the prime business session on Tuesday afternoon to get a view from the very top on E-commerce and the telecommunications requirements for successful businesses in the information age. Although final details have yet to be confirmed, we should be focusing on network automation on the morning of the opening day, and mobile communications on the second day. Themes running through the whole conference and exhibition will be network security, health and safety and environmental considerations.

With 'globalisation' as another current preoccupation, we shall be inviting a number of overseas speakers with experience in areas of interest to UK utilities, and seeking to attract delegates from overseas, reflecting the wide geographic ownership of UK utilities.

The event is being organised jointly by JRC (for the gas and electricity industries) and CSS Spectrum Management Services Ltd (on behalf of the Telecommunications Advisory Committee of the UK water industry).

There will again be a limited number of exhibition stands and sponsorship opportunities.

Those interested should contact Anita Lad on 020 7963 5797.

Looking at the feedback from the 1998 event, the main areas in need of improvement were the timing of presentations – especially the long gaps as speakers struggled to change-over laptops. The complaints about the seating in the main auditorium have been taken on board. This year's venue will accommodate 180 delegates in classroom style to ensure everyone has a surface on which to rest their conference papers.



Taking all these messages to heart, Adrian Grilli, JRC MD, is seen here making a personal assessment of the chairs to be used.

EURO2000 footnote

For anyone worried that the biennial utilities event always seems to clash with major sporting fixtures, we can advise you that England play Portugal on the television in the bar on the evening (Football!) before the event, Monday 12 June at 20.45.

Radio Spectrum Changes

UHF Band Re-alignment

The DTI's Radiocommunications Agency (RA) has formed a project team to start co-ordinating the re-planning of the 450-470 MHz (UHF2) band to come into effect in 2005 after the emergency services have migrated to their new TETRA based PSRCP network. The move will affect all scanning telemetry assignments, and the PMR systems in UHF bands. David Priestley sits on the RA Group examining the options for re-alignment, and the JRC Strategy Advisory Group is providing the steering input to JRC.

The key point to remember is that the exercise does not mean simply swapping individual transmit and receive frequencies, but changing the frequency separation and the transmit and receive frequencies of every transmitter in the band. JRC will be consulting members in details once the proposals are a little better defined to assess costs, timescales and complexity.

Consultation document on 410-430 MHz band

On 16 February, we are expecting RA to issue their eagerly awaited consultation document on future use of the band 410 to 430 MHz. This spectrum is currently used extensively by the Military users, and Dolphin Telecommunications. Some JRC members have systems in the band also as this is also part of the civil UHF1 PMR band.

The key issues are likely to be how fast the MoD releases spectrum in this band for civil users, what is to happen with the existing UHF1 users and whether any new spectrum is given to Dolphin to expand their system, or to allow the introduction of a new second public Tetra operator, or perhaps make some available for private users.

Spectrum Management Agreement

JRC is in negotiation with RA to establish the potential of becoming a Spectrum Management Organisation. The benefits would be more flexibility in the way in which we use 'our' spectrum, but there may be a cost penalty. The JRC Board is reviewing the options, and the JRC Strategy Advisory Group is providing detailed analysis of the impact on members.

Low Earth Orbit satellites - LEOs

RA has now commissioned a project to further investigate the potential for the Orbcomm Little LEO satellite system to cause interference to mobile radio systems operated by JRC members in VHF Mid-Band, specifically, the Base Station receive segment 148-149 MHz. Orbcomm's UK Agent, Andronics, has a UK licence to operate in the band 149-150.05 MHz, but is still seeking to obtain clearance to operate over the whole 148-150.05 MHz L-LEO band.

A small Orbcomm Trials sub-group, reporting to the JRC Operations Advisory Group, is working to co-ordinate the JRC input to these trials. This sub-group consists of Operations and Strategy Group members and an independent consultant.

JRC continues to defend our position at European meetings, and is working closely with RA on aspirations by a number of other operators, E-SAT, LEO1, and Final Analysis to name three, who also wish to introduce little LEO systems sharing the band with JRC members.

Low Power Telemetry

Tests of new low power telemetry equipment to facilitate the introduction of widespread network automation systems in protected JRC spectrum are proving very successful. The intention is to complement MPT1411 schemes with cheaper more easily deployed systems for the next tier of network automation, but still giving guarantees against the interference that can undermine the integrity of fully deregulated MPT 1329 systems. Suitable spectrum in both the VHF and UHF bands has been identified.

The next stage is to take a proposal to the combined water/gas/electricity Utilities Radio Forum (URF) to co-ordinate the introduction of the new service since the UHF spectrum is shared with the water industry. Contact David Priestley for more information.

Tetra Trial at Didcot 'A' Power Station

During the summer of 1999, National Power hosted a trial of Marconi Tetra equipment at Didcot 'A' Power Station. A report of the trial is available to JRC Members from Simon Parsons.



A Radiocommunications Agency engineer inspecting the Tetra base station installation at Didcot.