



1 July 2007 (revised 13 Dec 07)

DBCP Iridium Pilot Programme participants  
Buoy manufacturers

Dear Colleague

### **DBCP Iridium Pilot Project – Iridium Upgrade Scheme**

As you will recall, the DBCP agreed to earmark significant funds (up to USD 30k) to the Iridium Pilot Project (Iridium-PP) in recognition of the wide interest that many buoy operators and manufacturers expressed in evaluating the suitability of the Iridium satellite system for buoy communications. Specifically, the project steering group was asked to use the funds to help implement a globally distributed network of up to 50 Iridium-equipped SVP-B drifters as a key component of a two-year evaluation programme.

In order to achieve maximum benefit from the funds at its disposal, and to avoid showing favouritism towards any particular buoy manufacturer, the steering group has received approval from the DBCP Executive Board to implement an **Iridium Upgrade Scheme**, somewhat similar to the barometer upgrade scheme that has run successfully for many years. Essentially, prospective purchasers of standard SVP-Bs may upgrade their buoys to Iridium for no extra cost, with the DBCP paying a flat rate of USD500 per unit to the manufacturer as a contribution towards additional costs. Additionally, Metocean, an established Iridium reseller, will supply Iridium data services to approved pilot project buoys at a special rate for the duration of the project. Météo France, through Pierre Blouch, have also kindly agreed to arrange GTS distribution of Iridium buoy data through their newly created Iridium portal.

In detail, the Upgrade Scheme will work as follows:

1. Any user wishing to participate in the upgrade scheme must first contact the PP steering team chair (i.e. myself) to get approval. The aim will be to distribute the 50 SVP-Bs that can be funded across as wide a spectrum of ocean areas and manufacturers as possible.
2. Users must then confirm with their proposed buoy supplier that an upgrade is possible.
3. The buoys must implement the standard Iridium format devised by Météo France and posted on the Iridium-PP website at <http://www.jcommops.org/dbcp/iridium-pp/>
4. The supplier is allowed to invoice a maximum of USD500 per unit to the DBCP (i.e. to me). I will sign these invoices and pass them to the WMO for payment.
5. Users are responsible for the activation and usage costs of their Iridium modems.
6. Iridium resellers (such as Metocean) must declare the Iridium-PP mailboxes at Météo France and JCOMMOPS to receive buoy data, in addition to any mailboxes nominated by the user. The addresses of the Iridium-PP mailboxes are available on application to [viola@jcommops.org](mailto:viola@jcommops.org).
7. Iridium buoys that do not call upon PP funds are also invited to use the above mailboxes in the interests of all.

If you have any questions, please get in touch with myself ([dtm@sams.ac.uk](mailto:dtm@sams.ac.uk)) or the DBCP Technical Coordinator, Hester ([viola@jcommops.org](mailto:viola@jcommops.org)).

Yours sincerely