

PACKET RADIO DEFINITIONS

At the IARU Region 1 Conference at De Haan (September 1993) it was decided to adopt the following definitions of terms which are used in connection with packet radio. These definitions are considered to be provisional and will be reviewed at the next IARU Region 1 Conference.

Packet Radio : A form of digital communication commonly based on the use of the AX.25 protocol.

AX.25 Protocol : This protocol is based on the Amateur Radio Packet link layer protocol as described in the ARRL booklet "Amateur Packet-Radio Link Layer Protocol, AX.25".

Network : Packet radio stations may be joined by links and use a mutually agreed network protocol to allow data to be transferred automatically from one station to another station. Such a set of interconnected stations is known as a network.

Network station : A network station is an amateur radio station offering network capabilities and may establish links with other network stations. It transmits data over the network and may store data for a long or short term. It may consist of one or a combination of the following types:

Network Node : A network station supporting the transport of data over the network without long term storage.

Bulletin Board (also BBS or Mailbox) : A network station that stores messages and other information. Users can examine the stored information and messages (downloading) and supply further information and messages (uploading) once they have first established a connection with the bulletin board. A bulletin board may establish connections with other network stations for the transfer of messages and other information.

Cluster : Network stations may be interconnected in such a way that input provided to any of the stations in the cluster may be automatically passed to all the other members of the cluster and to some or all of the stations connected to the cluster. A packet radio user may connect to a cluster by first establishing a link with any station that is part of the cluster.

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