

“Follow-up” to the RSSSA Ad-Hoc Advisory Meeting – May 2021 Secretarial Summary Notes

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Summary: The “Follow-up” to the Ad Hoc Committee Advisory Meeting of 13 May 2021 was postponed to the Fall. In the interim, this progress summary was distributed secretarially to the committee members. These notes summarise the advancements on the RSSSA Review-related work.

1. Administration items

This summary is used to capture progress regarding the work conducted on the RSSSA Review. The Co-Chairs determined that there was not enough headway on key documents and discussion points to justify a full meeting of the “Follow-up” to the Ad-Hoc Advisory Committee, which resulted in the decision to postpone it. By the end of summer, the Co-Chairs will review progress and determine when a session would be appropriate. As an interim solution, these summary notes have been created to update the Committee members on particular topics in lieu of the postponed “Follow-up” discussion.

2. 2022 RSSSA Independent Review - Update

GAC has completed the government contracting process as per the procurement and contracting guidelines for the 2022 Independent Review. The contract was signed in February 2021 with *Space Strategies Consulting Ltd.* (SSCL). As per the terms of the contract, SSCL has received the Stakeholder List, as well as copies of all the RSSSA Ad-Hoc Advisory Committee-related materials, and other pertinent documents for the Independent Review¹. The Stakeholder List is a listing of numerous national and international representatives within the remote sensing community, spanning from representatives from industry, academia, and government.

SSCL Web Link: https://d6d1e37a-5287-40da-9b2d-ade8977a6f41.filesusr.com/ugd/d585b9_3c880e4164a946b89c90a77ceb8cfe11.pdf

3. Application Guide Version 1.1

Shortly after the online publication of the *RSSSA Operating Licence Application Guide*, a few corrections were recommended and implemented which included an addition (page 9) that CSA is the point of contact for register satellites. The version 1.1 is available online. Committee members are encouraged to provide feedback at any time regarding the Guide.

RSSSA Operating Licence Application Guide link:

https://www.international.gc.ca/world-monde/issues_development-enjeux_developpement/peace_security-paix_securite/RSSSA-guide-LSTS.aspx?lang=eng

4. RSSSA Advisory Committee

GAC has reviewed the concept of a standing *RSSSA Advisory Committee* and concluded that the establishment of such a committee would be most beneficial to take place after the release of the 2022 Independent Review; therefore, some time after 05 Apr 22.

5. RSSSA Framework Document (aka R_{SSSA} 101)

Progress on the second portion of the R_{SSSA} CPC has advanced, but the document is not ready for wide distribution. The document's flow has been altered from a regulator's PoV to an applicant's PoV. GAC is aiming to have a draft ready for the Fall meeting.

6. Liability Document

Back in the Sep 2019 meeting, GAC undertook to deliver a document examining and recommending actions in context of insurance on space object and activities. As the document developed, the scope of the recommendations went well beyond remote sensing and is becoming an issue for broader government discussion. GAC intends on extracting the background and research portions of this document to create a "research paper" on the current international set-up regarding space liability insurance as it relates to the R_{SSSA}. The document is currently at the stage of internal review.

¹ No sensitive or business confidential information has been shared with SSCL, this includes any licence applications, licences, email exchanges, or any other sensitive information.

7. Class Exemptions

GAC is conducting internal discussions on potential Class Exemptions; however, they are not well defined and not ready to share publicly.

Additionally, the GAC Team had initial discussions regarding the legal process of implementing “Class Exemptions” with the Regulatory Affairs and Litigation Support Unit and legal department. First impressions are that implementing class exemptions would entail full regulatory amendment process. This tends to be relatively burdensome process and very time consuming, taking upwards of two years or more. GAC is still discussing options in regards to “class exemptions” and exploring other avenues to assist the application process and the requirements of the *Act*.

8. Next Meeting

The “Follow-up” to the Ad-Hoc Advisory Committee is anticipated to take place in the Fall (September or October timeframe). Invitations and tentative agenda to be distributed by the end of Summer.