

Merseyside. The UK FM Group (Western) reports hearing female voices using Army RT procedures on the system. They also report hearing Pye personnel testing the system.

One source suggests that MOULD will provide each of the Regional Military Commanders with *national* coverage. This would be done by linking a MOULD site to the appropriate headquarters by a separate radio link or landline. This seems to explain why some sites have been heard using several different frequencies.

Unofficial secrets

In spite of the Pye press release already quoted, and coverage in at least one national newspaper as well as technical magazines, the RSGB claims it has kept quiet about the system "because there's a D-notice on it". *Radcom* describes MOULD as "Project X".

In fact, the only D-notice relating to MOULD is a general one asking journalists to consult with the Secretary of the Defence Press and Broadcasting Committee (that's what the 'D' stands for) before describing any new military communications system. (The whole D-notice system is in any case merely an informal arrangement between the MoD and the media to provide guidance for reporters. It cannot censor a story, and complying with D-notices does not protect reporters against prosecution under the Official Secrets Act. It has no legal standing at all.)

Allocations

In Region 1 of the ITU, which includes the UK, the 430-440MHz band is allocated on a primary basis to amateurs and radio-location. This was decided at WARC 79. There is a footnote allowing the UK and several other countries to use the band for radio altimeters on a secondary basis, but not for fixed and mobile services, which lost their allocation.

Individual governments are allowed to use bands outside 4-27.5MHz for services not listed in the WARC 79 frequency table. They must, however, notify the International Frequency Registration

Board (IFRB). The UK Government has only just notified the IFRB of MOULD, which is a fixed/mobile service.

Also, if an individual country uses a frequency for a service not in the WARC 79 table, it must ensure that it does not interfere with services in other countries that are in the WARC 79 table.

So if MOULD interferes with,

say, a Dutch amateur repeater, then the UK Government would have to take steps to prevent the interference.

A spokesman for the Home Office says they have not received any complaints about MOULD from abroad. He says that if they did the Home Office "would take steps to make sure the interference did not occur". Watch this space.

Site	Frequency	Site	Frequency
Winter Hill	433.0125 433.1625	? (Heard in SE England)	433.1375 433.1125
Allport Heights, Derby	433.0125		433.1875
Sutton Common, Derbys	433.2125		433.3125
? (Humbershire)	433.2625		433.3875
Barkway, Herts	-- ? --	Barnacre, Northumberland	-- ? --
Bentley Priory, Middx	-- ? --	Knightsbridge Barracks, London	
Coldblow Farm, Kent	433.3625 433.3675		433.2125
Old Pale, Cheshire	433.4625 433.1625?		

Table 1. Suspected MOULD sites and frequencies in the 70cm amateur band.

IN BRIEF

'HAM' MAN JAILED

Anthony Lavelle, a partner in Ham International (UK), has been jailed for nine months for importing illegal CB radios. £1,000 costs were also awarded against him.

His brother John Lavelle, also a partner in Ham International (UK), received a sixth month suspended sentence. He was also ordered to pay £1,000 costs.

Mr Christopher Holland QC, prosecuting, told York Crown Court that they imported nearly £1,000,000 worth of illegal CB sets from Belgium, hidden in secret compartments behind the bulkheads of two lorries.

Mr Gilbery Gray QC, defending the Lavelle brothers, said they thought the Government would legalise the imports.

23cm NEXT ON MoD LIST?

Amateur stations using the recently reduced 23cm amateur band can expect increased interference from new air traffic control radar stations, both civil and military. Several new radars are being built in the UK, and others are moving out of the 582-606MHz band (between TV bands IV and V) to the 23cm band.

LICENCE FEES UP

The cost of an amateur radio licence is going up by 50% to 12 pounds, from 1st June 1983.

NEW UK PREFIXES

The Home Office has announced that the G0 (G zero) prefix will be used for Class A amateur licences when the G4 series runs out. Likewise the G1 series will be used for Class B licences when the G6s run out.

TWO MORE ON 50MHz

Two new stations have been issued with 50MHz research licences, in place of two of the original forty who were unable to operate. The new stations are GW3MHW and GM4IGS.

AMSAT LAUNCH DELAYED

The launch of the AMSAT Phase-IIIB satellite has been delayed by one to five weeks because of a problem with the engines on the launch vehicle, *Ariane 7*.

WRONG PRICE

We would like to apologise to SMC (again) for getting a price wrong in their advert in the June issue. The Yaesu FT726R multiband, multimode VHF/UHF transceiver costs 649 pounds, not 6489 pounds as stated.