

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

INTERNATIONAL MOBILE SATELLITE ORGANIZATION (IMSO)

Founded in 1979 as the International Maritime Satellite Organization (Inmarsat) to establish a satellite system to improve maritime communications for distress and safety and commercial applications. Its competence was subsequently expanded to include aeronautical and land mobile communications. Privatization, due to be completed in April 1999, transfers the business to a newly created company and the Organization remains as a regulator to ensure that the company fulfils its public services obligations. The company is to take the Inmarsat name and the Organization is to use the acronym IMSO. In March 1999 the Organization had 86 member Parties.

Organization. The Assembly of all Parties to the Convention meets every 2 years. There is also a 22-member Council of representatives of national tele-communications administrations as well as an executive Directorate.

Headquarters: 99 City Road, London, EC1Y 1AX, UK.
Director of the Secretariat, IMSO: Jerzy Vonau.
Chief Executive, Inmarsat Ltd: Warren Grace.

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS SATELLITE ORGANIZATION (INTELSAT)

Intelsat was founded in 1964 to own and operate the worldwide commercial satellite communications system. Costs are borne by members in proportion to their usage of the system. 19 Intelsat satellites in geosynchronous orbit provided a global communications service, including most of the world's overseas traffic in 1998. It has 143 member states.

Objectives. To provide international telephone and TV services, a digital data transmission service (Intelnet), a business service (IBS) and domestic telecommunications services.

Organization. The Assembly of Parties attended by representatives of member governments meets every 2 years to consider policy and long-term aims, and matters of interest to members. Practical aspects of the system are dealt with at the annual Meeting of Signatories. There is a 27-member Board of Governors.

Headquarters: 3400 International Drive, NW, Washington, D.C., 20008-3098, USA.
Director-General: Irving Goldstein (USA).