



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL SATELLITE, DATA  
AND INFORMATION SERVICE  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

March 20, 2017

MEMORANDUM FOR: Beacon Manufacturers Workshop Participants

FROM: Christopher O'Connors  
SARSAT Program Manager 

SUBJECT: 2017 Beacon Manufacturers Workshop

I am pleased to announce this year's BMW scheduled for Friday, May 12, 2017 from 0900-1630 at the Duval Conference Center at the Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites, 521 S. Gulfview Boulevard, Clearwater Beach, Florida 33767 USA. NOAA, as lead for the U.S. Search and Rescue Satellite-Aided Tracking (SARSAT) Program, will Chair this year's meeting. As in years past, the workshop is a part of the Radio Technical Committee for Maritime Services (RTCM) Annual Meeting. We thank the RTCM for their support and the opportunity to host the workshop.

The purpose of the workshop is to provide an open forum with the organizations that manufacture, market and service emergency beacons. As a representative of your industry, you will be given the opportunity to freely discuss issues that affect you and your customers with officials from the Federal Government who manage and operate the Cospas-Sarsat System. The workshop also allows the government officials to consider input from industry representatives before making decisions pertaining to the system.

There is no charge for participating in the workshop. However, there is a registration fee if you plan to attend the RTCM Annual Meeting. Information about the RTCM Annual Meeting and the Duval Conference Center can be obtained from the RTCM website at [www.rtc.org](http://www.rtc.org). Please note that a separate advanced registration is required for the BMW, apart from registration for the RTCM.

If you would like to participate in this year's workshop, please complete the attached registration form and email to [Lisa.Hessler@noaa.gov](mailto:Lisa.Hessler@noaa.gov) no later than April 28<sup>th</sup>. A draft agenda for the workshop is attached. We will be working in the next few weeks to finalize. Participants are encouraged to propose agenda items for consideration.

As a final thought, your beacons have been an integral part of what has made the Cospas-Sarsat System so successful over the years. To date, over 41,000 individuals have been rescued with assistance provided by Cospas-Sarsat. We should be proud of our life-saving achievements. With your participation, I look forward to a successful workshop in Florida.

Attachments

