

PRESENTATION OF THE METEOSAT SYSTEM AND THE ROLES OF EUMETSAT
WITHIN THE METEOROLOGICAL COMMUNITY

GORDON BRIDGE
EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY

1. THE METEOSAT SYSTEM

The overall system will be presented and the following elements described in some detail :

- the space segment, i.e. the use of one or more spin-stabilised satellites in geostationary orbit and of reserve satellites located nearby in a hibernated condition in order to provide a continuous service until at least 1995.
- the ground segment, the main components being the Data Acquisition, Telemetry and Tracking Station (DATTS), the Meteosat Ground Computer System (MGCS), the METEOSAT Operations Control Centre (MOCC) and the Meteorological Information Extraction Centre (MIEC).

SYSTEM OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the METEOSAT Operational System will be identified as three basic missions :

- Earth imaging
- Image dissemination
- Data collection and distribution including a detailed description of the MDD Mission Concept (in the view of Brazil).

Two important functions of the MIEC will be addressed :

- Meteorological processing and derived products
- Data archiving and retrieval.

The above METEOSAT system objectives will be presented, each aspect being described in detail.

A comprehensive set of colour view graphs, slides, etc. will be used for this presentation.

2. PROGRAMME HISTORY AND THE SETTING UP OF EUMETSAT

In view of the likely establishment of EUMETSAT this summer, a presentation will be made outlining the history of the METEOSAT Programme and the sequence of events leading to the creation of EUMETSAT. The objectives of EUMETSAT will be explained and its role within the meteorological community, not only in Europe but in the less developed nations will be stressed together with the possibilities for cooperative agreements.