|  |
| --- |
| U.S. Radiocommunications SectorFact Sheet |
| **Working Party:** ITU-R WP-5B | **Document No:** USWP5B35-19 |
| **Ref:** 5B/315 Annex 2.8 | **Date:** 11 August 2025 |
| **Document Title:** Preliminary Draft Revision of Recommendation ITU-R M.1638-1, “Characteristics of and protection criteria for sharing studies for radiolocation (except ground based meteorological radars) and aeronautical radionavigation radars operating in the frequency bands between 5 250 and 5 850 MHz” |
| **Author(s)/Contributors(s):**Fumie WingoDON CIO Taylor King ACES for DON CIORobert Leck ACES for DON CIO | Phone: 703-697-0066E-mail: fumie.n.wingo.civ@us.navy.mil Phone: 443-966-0550E-mail: taylor.king@aces-inc.com Phone: 321-332-2111E-mail: robert.leck@aces-inc.com  |
| **Purpose/Objective:** The purpose of this document is to continue the revision to Recommendation ITU-R M.1638-1. |
| **Abstract:** Recommendation ITU-R M.1638-1 contains characteristics for the radiolocation and aeronautical radionavigation systems operating within the 5250-5850 MHz frequency band. This contribution seeks to address comments and editor’s notes provided at the previous meeting. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Radiocommunication Study Groups** | A blue logo with a black background  Description automatically generated |
|  |  |
|  |  |
| Received: Source: Document 5B/315 Annex 2.8 | **Document 5B/XX-E** |
| **XX November 2025** |
| **English only** |
| **United States of America** |
| DRAFT revision of RECOMMENDATION ITU-R M.1638-1 |
| **Characteristics of and protection criteria for sharing studies for radiolocation (except ground based meteorological radars) and aeronautical radionavigation radars operating in the frequency bands between 5 250 and 5 850 MHz** |

The United States proposes that ITU-R Working Party (WP) 5B consider the updates to the preliminary draft revision to Recommendation [ITU-R M.1638-1](https://www.itu.int/rec/R-REC-M.1638/en) attached to the Chairman’s Report. The proposed updates seek to address the editor’s notes and square brackets in this document. This document also proposes elevation of the document. The United States proposals are highlighted in turquoise.

**Attachment:** 1

|  |
| --- |
| DRAFT REVISION OF RECOMMENDATION ITU-R M.1638-2 |
| Characteristics of and [protection criteria] for sharing studies for radiolocation (except ground based meteorological radars) and aeronautical radionavigation radars operating in the frequency bands between 5 250 and 5 850 MHz |

(2003-2015-202X)

Scope

This Recommendation describes the technical and operational characteristics of, and [protection criteria] for, radars operating in the frequency band 5 250-5 850 MHz, except ground based meteorological radars which are contained in Recommendation ITU-R M.1849. These characteristics are intended for use when assessing the compatibility of these systems with other services.

Keywords

Radar, shipborne, land-based, aeronautical, protection, multi-function

Abbreviations/Glossary

ARNS Aeronautical radionavigation service

CW: Continuous wave

ECCM Electronic countermeasures

*I/N*: Interference to noise ratio (dB)

RR: Radio Regulations

Related ITU Recommendations, Reports

Recommendations

[ITU-R M.1372](https://www.itu.int/rec/R-REC-M.1372/en) *Efficient use of the radio spectrum by radar stations in the radiodetermination service*

[ITU-R M.1461](https://www.itu.int/rec/R-REC-M.1461/en) *Procedures for determining the potential for interference between radars operating in the radiodetermination service and systems in other services*

[ITU-R M.1849](https://www.itu.int/rec/R-REC-M.1849/en) *Technical and operational aspects of ground-based meteorological radars*The ITU Radiocommunication Assembly,

considering

*a)* that antenna, signal propagation, target detection, and large necessary bandwidth characteristics of radar to achieve their functions are optimum in certain frequency bands;

*b)* that the technical characteristics of radiolocation (except ground based meteorological radars) and radionavigation radars are determined by the mission of the system and vary widely even within a frequency band;

*c)* that the radionavigation service is subject to No. **4.10** of the Radio Regulations (RR);

*d)* that procedures and methodologies to analyse compatibility between radars and systems in other services are provided in Recommendation ITU-R M.1461;

*e)* that radiolocation, radionavigation and meteorological radars operate in the frequency bands between 5 250-5 850 MHz;

*f)* that ground-based radars used for meteorological purposes are authorized to operate in the frequency band 5 600-5 650 MHz on a basis of equality with stations in the maritime radionavigation service (see Radio Regulations (RR) No. **5.452**);

*g)* that Recommendation ITU-R M.1849 contains technical and operational aspects of ground based meteorological radars and can be used as a guideline in analysing sharing and compatibility between ground based meteorological radars with systems in other services,

recommends

1 that the technical and operational characteristics of the radiolocation (except ground based meteorological radars) and radionavigation radars described in Annex 1 should be considered representative of those operating in the frequency bands between 5 250 and 5 850 MHz;

2that Recommendation ITU-R M.1461 should be used as a guideline in analysing sharing and compatibility between radiolocation (except ground based meteorological radars) and radionavigation radars described in Annex 1 with systems in other services;

3 that the [protection criterion] of *I*/*N*, of −6 dB for the radiolocation (except ground based meteorological radars) and radionavigation radars described in Annex 1 should be used [as the required protection trigger level]for the radiodetermination sharing studies with other services and this protection criterion represents the net protection level if multiple interferers are present.

Annex 1

Characteristics of radiolocation (except ground based meteorological radars) and aeronautical radionavigation radars

# 1 Introduction

The frequency bands between 5 250 and 5 850 MHz that are allocated to the aeronautical radionavigation or maritime radionavigation or radionavigation and radiolocation services on a primary basis as shown in Table 1.

TABLE 1

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Frequency band(MHz) | Allocation |
| 5 250-5 255 | Radiolocation |
| 5 255-5 350 | Radiolocation |
| 5 350-5 460 | Aeronautical radionavigationRadiolocation |
| 5 460-5 470 | RadiolocationRadionavigation |
| 5 470-5 570 | Maritime radionavigationRadiolocation |
| 5 570-5 650 | Maritime radionavigationRadiolocation(1) |
| 5 650-5 725 | Radiolocation |
| 5 725-5 850 | Radiolocation |
| (1) In accordance with RR No. **5.452**, between 5 600 and 5 650 MHz, ground-based radars for meteorological purposes are authorized to operate on a basis of equality with stations in the maritime radionavigation service. Recommendation ITU-R M.1849 contains characteristics of ground based meteorological radars. |

The radiolocation radars perform a variety of functions, such as:

– tracking space launch vehicles and aeronautical vehicles undergoing developmental and operational testing;

– sea and air surveillance;

– environmental measurements (e.g. study of ocean water cycles and weather phenomena such as hurricanes);

– Earth imaging; and

– national defense and multinational peacekeeping.

Aeronautical radionavigation radars are used primarily for airborne weather avoidance and windshear detection but also for airborne doppler navigation systems installed in aircraft (helicopters, as well as fixed-wing aircraft) and used for continuous determination of ground speed.

Maritime radionavigation radars are used for maritime radionavigation.

Multifunction radarcan also perform search, tracking functions with the same antenna in a single frequency band. For example:

* in airborne applications, mechanically steered antennas or phase array antennas are commonly used, and the functions typically include search and tracking of aerial and surface target search.in shipborne and ground applications mechanically steered antennas or phase array antennas are commonly used, and the functions typically include search and tracking of aerial and surface target search..

# 2 Technical characteristics

The frequency bands between 5 250 and 5 850 MHz are used by many different types of radars on land-based fixed, shipborne, airborne, and transportable platforms. Table 2 contains technical characteristics of representative systems deployed in these frequency bands. This information is generally sufficient for general calculations to assess the compatibility between these radars and other systems. These radars are conventionally operated as monostatic radar with transmitter and receiver at the same location (Fig. 1a). However, Radars 10A and 14A of Table 2 are additionally operated as bistatic radar where the transmitter and receiver are spatially separated (Fig. 1b).

The advantage of the separation of transmitter and receiver is the possible enhancement of the radar cross-section of an object. The effect is exemplarily shown in Fig. 1c for a square plane. This is especially important if the object to be detected does not reflect much energy in the direction of the incident radar signal.

The distance between the transmitter and receiver (baseline) is typically in the range of 30-50 km. Synchronization of the transmitter and receiver can be achieved by a radio link or global navigation satellite service or by time standards. This operation mode with passive receiver at a different location than the transmitter should be taken into account in compatibility studies. Since the receivers are not changed, the protection criteria of the mono-static and bi-static radar receiver are equal.

Figure 1

1a: Monostatic radar; 1b: Bi-static radar; 1c: Diffracted power of a simple square plane



This Table contains characteristics of some frequency-hopping radars which are operating in this frequency range.Frequency hopping is one of the most common electronic‑counter-counter-measures (ECCM). Radar systems that are designed to operate in hostile electronic attack environments use frequency hopping as one of its ECCM techniques. This type of radar typically divides its allocated frequency band into channels. The radar then randomly selects a channel from all available channels for transmission. This random occupation of a channel can occur on a per beam position basis where many pulses on the same channel are transmitted, or on a per pulse basis. This important aspect of radar systems should be considered, and the potential impact of frequency hopping radars should be taken into account in sharing studies.

TABLE 2

Characteristics of radiolocation (except ground based meteorological radars) and aeronautical radionavigation radars

[Editor’s note: the word/terminology “Function” included in the table 2 need to be revisited or substituted by proper wording]

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Characteristics | Units | Radar 1 | Radar 2 | Radar 3 | Radar 4 | Radar 5 | Radar 6 | Radar 7 | Radar 8 | Radar 9 |
| Service |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Function |  | Instrumentation | Instrumentation | Instrumentation | Instrumentation | Instrumentation | Surface and air search | Multifunction Surface and air search | Research and Earth imaging | Search |
| Platform type (airborne, shipborne, ground) |  | Ground | Ground | Ground | Ground | Ground | Ship | Ship | Airborne | Airborne |
| Frequency range  | MHz | 5 300 | 5 350-5 850 | 5 350-5 850 | 5 400-5 900 | 5 400-5 900 | 5 300 | 5 450-5 825 | 5 300 | 5 250-5 725 |
| Modulation |  | N/A | None | None | Pulse/chirp pulse | Chirp pulse | Linear FM | None | Non-linear/ linear FM | CW pulse |
| Tx power into antenna | kW | 250 | 2 800 | 1 200 | 1 000 | 165 | 360 | 285 | 1 or 16 | 0.1-0.4 |
| Pulse width | µs | 1.0 | 0.25, 1.0, 5.0 | 0.25, 0.5, 1.0 | 0.25-1 (unmodulated)3.1-50 (chirp) | 100 | 20.0 | 0.1/0.25/1.0 | 7 or 8 | 1.0 |
| Pulse rise/fall time  | µs | 0.1/0.2 | 0.02-0.5 | 0.02-0.05 | 0.02-0.1 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.03/0.05/0.1 | 0.5 | 0.05 |
| Pulse repetition rate  | pps | 3 000 | 160, 640 | 160, 640 | 20-1 280 | 320 | 500 | 2 400/1 200/750 | 1 000-4 000 | 200-1 500 |
| Chirp bandwidth  | MHz | N/A | N/A | N/A | 4.0 | 8.33 | 1.5 | N/A | 62, 124 | N/A |
| RF emission bandwidth | –3 dB–20 dB | MHz | 4.010.0 | 0.5-5 | 0.9-3.66.4-18 | 0.9-3.66.4-18 | 8.339.9 | 1.51.8 | 5.0/4.0/1.216.5/12.5/7.0 | 62, 12465, 130 | 4.010.0 |
| Antenna pattern type (pencil, fan, cosecant-squared, etc.) |  | Pencil | Pencil | Pencil | Pencil | Pencil | Cosecant-squared | Fan | Fan | Pencil |
| Antenna type (reflector, phased array, slotted array, etc.) |  | Parabolicreflector | Parabolic | Parabolic | Phased array | Phased array | Parabolic | Travelling wave feed horn array | Two dual polarized horns on single pedestal | Slotted array |

TABLE 2 (*cont.*)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Characteristics | Units | Radar 1 | Radar 2 | Radar 3 | Radar 4 | Radar 5 | Radar 6 | Radar 7 | Radar 8 | Radar 9 |
| Antenna polarization |  | Vertical/left-hand circular | Vertical/left-hand circular | Vertical/left-hand circular | Vertical/left-hand circular | Vertical/left-hand circular | Horizontal | Horizontal | Horizontal and vertical | Circular |
| Antenna main beam gain  | dBi | 38.3 | 54 | 47 | 45.9 | 42 | 28.0 | 30.0 | 26 | 30-40 |
| Antenna elevation beamwidth  | degrees | 2.5 | 0.4 | 0.8 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 24.8 | 28.0 | 28.0 | 2-4 |
| Antenna azimuthal beamwidth  | degrees | 2.5 | 0.4 | 0.8 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 2.6 | 1.6 | 3.0 | 2-4 |
| Antenna horizontal scan rate  | degrees/s | N/A (Tracking) | N/A (Tracking) | N/A (Tracking) | N/A (Tracking) | N/A (Tracking) | 36, 72 | 90 | N/A | 20 |
| Antenna horizontal scan type (continuous, random, 360°, sector, etc.)  | degrees | N/A (Tracking) | N/A (Tracking) | N/A (Tracking) | N/A (Tracking) | N/A (Tracking) | Continuous360 | 30-270Sector | Fixed to left or right of flight path | Continuous |
| Antenna vertical scan rate  | degrees/s | N/A (Tracking) | N/A (Tracking) | N/A (Tracking) | N/A (Tracking) | N/A (Tracking) | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Antenna vertical scan type (continuous, random, 360°, sector, etc.)  | degrees | N/A (Tracking) | N/A (Tracking) | N/A (Tracking) | N/A (Tracking) | N/A (Tracking) | N/A | Fixed | Fixed in elevation (–20 to –70) | N/A |
| Antenna side‑lobe (SL) levels (1st SLs and remote SLs)  | dB | –20 | –20 | –20 | –22 | –22 | –20 | –25 | –22 | –25 |
| Antenna height  | m | 20 | 20 | 8-20 | 20 | 20 | 40 | 40 | To 8 000 | 9 000 |
| Receiver IF 3 dB bandwidth | MHz | 1 | 4.8, 2.4, 0.25 | 4, 2, 1 | 2-8 | 8 | 1.5 | 1.2, 10 | 90, 147 | 1 |
| Receiver noise figure  | dB | 6 | 5 | 5 | 11 | 5 | 5 | 10 | 4.9 | 3.5 |
| Minimum discernable signal  | dBm | –105 | –107 | –100 | –107, –117 | –100 | –107 | –94 (short/medium pulse)–102 (wide pulse) | –90, –87 | –110 |

TABLE 2 *(cont.)*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Characteristics | Unit | Radar 10 | Radar 10A | Radar 11 | Radar 12 | Radar 13 | Radar 14 | Radar 14A | Radar 15 |
| Service |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Function |  | Radionavigation, Surface and Air Search | Radionavigation, Surface and Air Search | Radiolocation | Radiolocation | Radiolocation | Radiolocation | Radiolocation | Radiolocation |
| Platform type (airborne, shipborne, ground) |  | Shipborne Ground  | Ground(bistatic) | Ground | Shipborne | Ground | Ground | Ground(bistatic) | Ground |
| Frequency range  | MHz | 5 250-5 875 | 5 250-5 875 | 5 250-5 350 | 5 400-5 900 | 5 450-5 850 | 5 300-5 800 | 5 300-5 800 | 5 400-5 850 |
| Modulation |  | Bi-phaseBarker Code | Bi-phaseBarker Code | Coded Pulse | Coded Pulse | Pulsed, non-coherent | NA | NA | Un-Modulated Pulse |
| Tx power into antenna | kW | 90 | 90 | 0.400 | 25 | 750 | 50 | 50 | 1 000 |
| Pulse width  | µs | 0.30-14.0 | 0.30-14.0 | 0.08 | 0.32 | 1 | NA | NA | .25-1 |
| Pulse rise/fall time  | µs | 0.04-0.1 | 0.04-0.1 | .03/.03 | .015/.035 | .108/.216 | .100/.100 | .100/.100 | .150/.200 |
| Pulse repetition rate  | pps | 4 000-5 000 | 4 000-5 000 | 5 000 | 8 000 | 160-1 280 | NA | NA | 160 - 640 |
| Chirp bandwidth  | MHz | 1.5 | 1.5 | N/A | N/A | NA | NA | NA | NA |
| RF emission –3 dBbandwidth –20 dB  | MHz | 41220 at –40 dB | 41220 at –40 dB | 611 | 1.5520 | .84.1 | 470490 | 470490 | 1.810 |
| Antenna pattern type (pencil, fan, cosecant-squared, etc.) |  | Fan | Fan | N/A | N/A | Pencil | Pencil | Pencil | N/A |
| Antenna type (reflector, phased array, slotted array, etc.) |  | Passive Phased Array | Passive Phased Array | Phased array | Phased array | Parabolic | Phased array | Phased array | Horn |

TABLE 2 (*cont.*)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Characteristics | Unit | Radar 10 | Radar 10A | Radar 11 | Radar 12  | Radar 13 | Radar 14 | Radar 14A | Radar 15 |
| Antenna polarization |  | Horizontal | Horizontal | Vertical | Vertical | Linear Vertical | NA | NA | Vertical, Linear |
| Antenna main beam gain  | dBi | 33 (<55) | 33 (<55) | 16 | 25 | 42.94 | 40 | 40 | 42 |
| Antenna elevation beamwidth  | degrees | 7 | 7 | 12.5 | 26 | 2.5 | 2.5 | 2.5 | 1.2 |
| Antenna azimuthal beamwidth  | degrees | 1.8 | 1.8 | 12.5 | 2 | 2.5 | 2.5 | 2.5 | 1.2 |
| Antenna horizontal scan rate  | degrees/s | 6-60 | 6-60 | N/A | N/A | 25 | 30 | 30 | Variable - 45 |
| Antenna horizontal scan type (continuous, random, 360°, sector, etc.)  | degrees | 360 | 360 | N/A | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360 |
| Antenna vertical scan rate  | degrees/s | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A | 25 | N/A | N/A | variable - 45 |
| Antenna vertical scan type (continuous, random, 360°, sector, etc.)  | degrees | N/A | N/A | N/A | Electronically Steered | N/A | Electronically Steered | Electronically Steered | N/A |
| Antenna side‑lobe (SL) levels (1st SLs and remote SLs)  | dB | –29 | –29 | N/A | N/A | –8.7 | –40 | –40 | –22 |
| Antenna height  | m | 45 | 30 | N/A | 30 | NA | NA | NA | NA |
| Receiver IF 3 dB bandwidth  | MHz | 11 | 11 | 10 | 7 | 2.75 | NA | NA | 20 |
| Receiver noise figure  | dB | 3 | 3 | 10 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 2.3 |
| Minimum discernable signal  | dBm | –115 | –115 | –111 | –116 | –107 | –100 | –100 | –112 |

TABLE 2 (*cont.*)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Characteristics | Unit | Radar 16 | Radar 17 | Radar 18 | Radar 19  | Radar 20  | Radar 21 | Radar 22 | Radar 23 |
| Service |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Function |  | Aeronautical radionavigation | Multifunction | Multi-function | Multi-function | Multi-function | Multi-function | Multi-function | Multi-function |
| Platform type (airborne, shipborne, ground) |  | Airborne | Airborne | Ground | Ground | Shipborne | Ground/ship | Surface and air search ground-based on vehicle | Search ground-based on vehicle |
| Frequency range | MHz | 5 440 | 5 370 | 5 600-5 650 | 5 300-5 700 | 5 400-5 700 | 5 300-5 750 | 5 400-5 850 | 5 250-5 850 |
| Modulation |  | N/A | N/A | NA | Un-modulated Pulse | Un-modulated Pulse | N/A | Coded pulse/barker code and Frequency hopping | Coded pulse/barker code and Frequency hopping |
| Tx power into antenna | kW | 0.200 peak | 70 peak | 7.5 | 250 | 350 | 300-400  peak | 12 peak | 70 |
| Pulse width | µs | 1-20 | 6.0 | 0.0005-0.20 | 0.8 to 2.0 | 2 | .05..4.0 | 4.0-20.0 | 3.5/6.0/1.0 |
| Pulse rise/fall time | µs | 0.1 | 0.6 | 0.0005/0.0005 | 0.08 | .096/0.33 | 0.1 | 0.2 | 0.3 |
| Pulse repetition rate | pps | 180-1 440 | 200 | 3 000 | 250-1 180 | 250-500 | 200-1 300 | 1 000-7 800 | 2 500-3 750 |
| Chirp bandwidth  | MHz |  |  | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA | NA |
| RF emission bandwidth | –3 dB–20 dB | MHz |  |  | 215 | 1.258.3 | 0.42.88 | NA | 5Not available | 5Not available |
| Antenna pattern type (pencil, fan, cosecant-squared, etc.) |  | Pencil | Fan | Pencil | Pencil | Pencil | Conical | Pencil | Pencil |
| Antenna type (reflector, phased array, slotted array, etc.) |  | Slotted array | Parabolic | Parabolic Reflector | Parabolic Reflector | Parabolic Reflector | Parabolic | Phased array | Phased array |

TABLE 2 *(cont.)*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Characteristics | Unit | Radar 16 | Radar 17 | Radar 18 | Radar 19 | Radar 20 | Radar 21 | Radar 22 | Radar 23 |
| Antenna polarization |  | Horizontal | Horizontal | Horizontal | Horizontal | Horizontal | Vertical | Vertical | Horizontal |
| Antenna main beam gain | dBi | 34 | 37.5 | 38.5 | 44.5 | 40 | 44.5 | 35 | 31.5 |
| Antenna elevation beamwidth | degrees | 3.5 | 4.1 | 2.2 | 1 | 1.7 | 2.0 | 30 | 30 |
| Antenna azimuthal beamwidth | degrees | 3.5 | 1.1 | 2.2 | 1 | 1.7 | 2.0 | 2 | 2 |
| Antenna horizontal scan rate | degrees/s | 20 | 24 | 3.4 | Variable | 6 | 36 | Variable | Variable |
| Antenna horizontal scan type (continuous, random, 360°, sector, etc.) | degrees | Continuous | 180Sector | 360 | NA | 360 | 360 | 360 | 360sector |
| Antenna vertical scan rate | degrees | 45 | N/A | 6.5 | Variable | NA | 3 | NA | NA |
| Antenna vertical scan type (continuous, random, 360°, sector, etc.) | degrees | Sector | N/A | NA | NA | NA | 30 | Sector | Sector |
| Antenna side‑lobe (SL) levels (1st SLs and remote SLs) | dB | –31 | –20 | –31 | –25 | –29 | –30 | –40 | –30 |
| Antenna height | m | Aircraft altitude | Aircraft altitude | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10..40 | 10 | 6-13 |
| Receiver IF 3 dB bandwidth | MHz | 1.0 | 0.6 | 3 | 0.75 | 0.5 | 0.8 | 4 | 5 |
| Receiver noise figure | dB | 5 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 13 |
| Minimum discernable signal | dBm | –109 | –106 | –123 | –109 | –115 | –120 | –103 | –108 |

TABLE 2 (*end*)

| Characteristics | Unit | Radar 24 [[1]](#footnote-1) | Radar 25 | Radar 26 |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Service |  |  |  |  |
| Function  |  | Radiolocation | Radiolocation | Instrumentation |
| Platform type (airborne, shipborne, ground) |  | Airborne | Ground | Ground |
| Frequency range | MHz | 5 350-5 460 | 5 250-5 900 | 5 400-5 900 |
| Modulation |  | Coded pulse | Coded pulse | Un-modulated Pulse |
| Tx power into antenna | kW | 1.3 | 5-4250 | 200-5 500 |
| Pulse width | µs | 1.0/1.25/2.5/5.0 | 1-25 | 0.5-10 |
| Pulse rise/fall time | µs | 0.05 | 0.0082-0.0132/0.012-0.016 | 0.02-0.15/0.02-0.15 |
| Pulse repetition rate | pps | 15 000/20 000/1 000/5 000 | 40-320 | 100-1 000 |
| Chirp bandwidth | MHz | N/A | NA | NA |
| RF emission bandwidth | –3 dB–20 dB | MHz | 7.2/8.2/8.7/4725.3/15.9/15.1/60.6 | 1-1005-210 | 0.5-24-20 |
| Antenna pattern type (pencil, fan, cosecant-squared, etc.) |  | Fan | Pencil | Pencil |
| Antenna type (reflector, phased array, slotted array, etc.) |  | Phased array | Parabolic | Parabolic, Cassegrain Feed |
| Antenna polarization |  | Vertical | Left-hand Circular | Vertical Linear, LHC |
| Antenna main beam gain | dBi | 22 | 57 | 55 |
| Antenna elevation beamwidth | degrees | 5.4 | 0.5 | 0.5 |
| Antenna azimuthal beamwidth | degrees | 55.6 | 0.5 | 0.5 |
| Antenna horizontal scan rate | degrees/s |  | 22 | 25 |
| Antenna horizontal scan type (continuous, random, 360°, sector, etc.) | degrees | 110 Sector | 360 | 360 |
| Antenna vertical scan rate | degrees | 230 | 15 | 20 |
| Antenna vertical scan type (continuous, random, 360°, sector, etc.) | degrees | Electronic scan sector(–40° to 40°) | Sector(–10 to +90) | Sector (–5 to +90) |
| Antenna side‑lobe (SL) levels (1st SLs and remote SLs) | dB | –13 | –18 | –19 |
| Antenna height | m | 1 500-15 000 | 50 | 40 |
| Receiver IF 3 dB bandwidth | MHz | 7.2/8.2/8.7/47 | 1-300 | 1-10 |
| Receiver noise figure | dB | 3 | 4 | 4 |
| Minimum discernable signal | dBm | –95 | –130 | –110 |

# 3 Operational characteristics

## 3.1 Aeronautical radionavigation radars

Onboard weather radars operate continuously during flight and windshear detection radars operate automatically whenever the aircraft descends below 2 400 ft (732 m). Both radars have similar characteristics and are principally forward-looking radars which scan a volume around the aircraft’s flight path ahead. These systems are automatically scanned over a given azimuth and elevation range, and are typically manually (mechanically) adjustable in elevation by the pilot.

Weather and windshear radars onboard aircraft are now expected to be operated in the 9 300-9 500 MHz band, however it may remain some equipment operating in the 5 350-5 470 MHz frequency range still onboard a limited number of aircraft.

## 3.2 Radiolocation radars

There are numerous radar types, accomplishing various missions, operating within the radiolocation service throughout the frequency range 5 250-5 850 MHz. Table 2 gives the technical characteristics for several representative types of radars that use these frequencies that can be used to assess the compatibility between radiolocation radars and systems of other services. The operational use of these radars is briefly discussed in the following text.

Test range instrumentation radars are used to provide highly accurate position data on space launch vehicles and aeronautical vehicles undergoing developmental and operational testing. These radars are typified by high transmitter powers and large aperture parabolic reflector antennas with very narrow pencil beams.

The radars have auto tracking antennas which either skin track or beacon track the object of interest. (Note that radar beacons have not been presented in Table 2; they normally are tunable over the frequency range 5 400-5 900 MHz, have transmitter powers in the range 50‑200 W peak, and serve to rebroadcast the received radar signal.) Periods of operation can last from minutes up to 4‑5 h, depending upon the test program. Operations are conducted at scheduled times 24 h/day, 7 days/week.

Shipboard sea and air surveillance radars are used for ship protection and operate continuously while the ship is underway as well as entering and leaving port areas. These radars operate continuously during a shipʼs deployment, based on the shipʼs schedule and availability. These radars perform missions such as marine environmental protection; law enforcement in ports, and inland waterways, coastal security; humanitarian assistance, and/or disaster response and search and rescue missions involving small cross section targets such as light aircraft, lifeboats, canoes, dinghies, and swimmers with life jackets. These surveillance radars usually employ moderately high transmitter powers and antennas which scan electronically in elevation and mechanically a full 360° in azimuth. Operations can be such that multiple ships are operating these radars simultaneously in a given geographical area.

Other special-purpose radars are also operated in the frequency band 5 250-5 850 MHz. Radar 7 (Table 2) is an airborne synthetic aperture radar which is used in land-mapping and imaging, environmental and land-use studies, and other related research activities. It is operated continuously at various altitudes and with varying look-down angles for periods of time up to hours in duration which depends upon the specific measurement campaign being performed.

# 4 Protection criteria

The desensitizing effect on radars operated in this frequency band from other services of a CW or noise-like type modulation is predictably related to its intensity. In any azimuth sectors in which such interference arrives, its power spectral density can simply be added to the power spectral density of the radar receiver thermal noise, to within a reasonable approximation. If power spectral density of radar-receiver noise in the absence of interference is denoted by *N*0 and that of noise-like interference by *I*0, the resultant effective noise power spectral density becomes simply *I*0 + *N*0. An increase of about 1 dB for the radiolocation radars except ground based meteorological radar would constitute significant degradation. Such an increase corresponds to an (*I* + *N* )/*N* ratio of 1.26, or an *I*/*N* ratio of about −6 dB. For the radionavigation service and meteorological[[2]](#footnote-2) radars an increase of about 0.5 dB would constitute significant degradation. Such an increase corresponds to an *I* /*N* ratio of about –10 dB. These protection criteria represent the aggregate effects of multiple interferers, when present; the tolerable *I*/*N* ratio for an individual interferer depends on the number of interferers and their geometry, and needs to be assessed in the course of analysis of a given scenario.

The aggregation factor can be very substantial in the case of certain communication systems, in which a great number of stations can be deployed.

The effect of pulsed interference is more difficult to quantify and is strongly dependent on receiver/processor design and mode of operation. In particular, the differential processing gains for valid-target return, which is synchronously pulsed, and interference pulses, which are usually asynchronous, often have important effects on the impact of given levels of pulsed interference. Several different forms of performance degradation can be inflicted by such desensitization. Assessing it will be an objective for analyses of interactions between specific radar types. In general, numerous features of radiodetermination radars can be expected to help suppress low-duty cycle pulsed interference, especially from a few isolated sources. Techniques for suppression of low-duty cycle pulsed interference are contained in Recommendation ITU-R M.1372 – Efficient use of the radio spectrum by radar stations in the radiodetermination service.

# 5 Interference mitigation techniques

In general, mutual compatibility between radiolocation (except ground based meteorological radars) and aeronautical radionavigation is fostered by the scanning of the antenna beams, which limits main beam couplings. Additional mitigation is afforded by differences between the waveforms of the two types of radars and the associated rejection of undesired pulses via receiver filtering and signal processing techniques such as limiting, sensitivity time control and signal integration. Additionally, interference can be mitigated by separation in carrier frequency or discrimination in time through the use of asynchronous pulse rejection/suppression techniques. In radar-to-radar interactions, separation in frequency is not always necessary for compatible operation because high degrees of isolation in power coupling and in time either occur naturally or can be achieved by good design. Additional details of interference mitigation techniques employed by radar systems are contained in Recommendation ITU‑R M.1372.

1. In Region 2 only, Radar 24 also operates under aeronautical radionavigation service. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. The protection criteria for ground-based meteorological radars is found in Recommendation ITU‑R M.1849. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)