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The Hong Kong Radio Control Soaring Society 香港遙控滑翔飛行協會

Mr. Stanley Chan Secretary, HKRCSS 35H, Tower 8, Vista Paradiso, Hang Ming St., Ma On Shan, N.T 27-2-2002

Office of the Telecommunications Authority 29/f Wu Chung House Queen's Road East WANCHAI

Dear Sir,

Re: Frequencies for Model Control

We are a club of radio controlled model glider enthusiasts duly registered under the Societies Ordinance. With some 74 members (and increasing) and being the largest active club of its kind in Hong Kong, we are certainly representative of this aspect of the hobby in the territory.

We write to express our concern on the lack of frequencies allocated for model control use. At present, only 6 frequencies on the 27 MHz band (for which license is not required if certain conditions are met) and 2 frequencies on the 72 MHz band (for which license is required), i.e., a total of 8 frequencies only, are legally available for such purpose. With so many modellers in all branches (model car, boat and aircraft) of the hobby chasing after so few frequencies, the risk of 2 or more users operating on the same frequency in the vicinity thereby causing the models concerned to suffer radio interference and loss of control is obvious. Needless to say, this presents a real public safety issue in that an out of control model, aircraft in particular, may cause serious personal injury and property damage when it crashes.

While we understand that model control cannot be expected to be a matter of great importance among the many substantial issues before OFTA such as the wireless fixed network and 3G, we have to say that the allocation of frequencies for model control by OFTA and its predecessor has essentially been left unchanged for the past 20 years or so, an unacceptable length of time by any standards. It is by now wholly inadequate in view of the sheer number of users chasing after so few frequencies, and is in need for a major reform. Accordingly we strongly urge that to minimise the risk of the kind of personal injury and property damage we explained above due to radio interference, OFTA should allocate more frequencies for model control (and to issue Model Control Licenses thereof) on frequency bands such as 29, 35, 36, 40, 41, 50, 53, 60, 72 and 75 MHz in conformity with the practice in the European Union and the United States where all or some of these bands are legally available for model control. We shall be pleased to let you know the exact frequencies in each band upon request.

As you can see from what we said above, the matter has been neglected for too long. We therefore respectfully ask OFTA to address the issue as a matter of priority and to accede to our request that the range of frequencies for model control be expanded as explained above. We look forward to hearing your reply on the above matters.

Yours faithfully,

Stanley Chan, Secretary, The Hong Kong Radio Control Soaring Society