



AMTA–ARPANSA Liaison Forum Meeting Summary

1 March 2021
10:00am – 12:00pm

Meeting summary

The Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) of the Australian Mobile Telecommunications Association (AMTA) and the Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA) and accompanying staff met via a video conference meeting. The objective of the AMTA-ARPANSA Liaison Forum is to provide an open, frank and transparent exchange of information and views on radiation safety and radiation protection issues in the area of Electromagnetic Energy (EME), with due regard to the different roles the organisations play.

EME Program Update

ARPANSA provided a general update on its activities as part of the new EME Program. This included funding for research provided to the World Health Organisation (WHO), the establishment of a PhD scholarship through Monash University, a project to update ARPANSA's laboratory equipment for measuring EME, and research projects.

Revised EME Standard

ARPANSA provided an update on the recent developments around the new EME standard, *Standard for Limiting Exposure to Radiofrequency Fields – 100 kHz to 300 kHz* (now published on the ARPANSA website as <https://www.arpansa.gov.au/regulation-and-licensing/regulatory-publications/radiation-protection-series/codes-and-standards/rpss-1>), thanking industry for their comments provided as part of the public consultation process and noting plans to utilise multiple channels for subsequent public outreach activities. ARPANSA noted that the International Commission for Non-Ionising Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) is revising low frequency guidelines, and AMTA noted that transitioning the updated EME standard into worker guidelines is now a focus going forwards.

Research update

ARPANSA broadly covered current high-level plans under the EME Program to start dissemination of research funding in 2021, in line with ARPANSA's research agenda which identifies the areas where new research can usefully add to the collective existing scientific knowledge on EME. ARPANSA noted its engagement with Australian academia and ongoing discussions with the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) on measurement methodologies for new technology.

Industry trends update – 5G and small cell rollout

AMTA provided a general update on industry rollout of 5G infrastructure in 2021, particularly in mobile networks but noting industrial uses are gaining interest. AMTA further noted efforts within industry to develop a readiness assessment of deployment regulation preparedness for new 5G deployments.

Worker safety initiatives

AMTA noted the work ahead to develop worker guidelines, and ARPANSA noted that occupational exposures are part of its considerations for future EME program planning, such as for measurement studies, given the various types of workplaces and EME technologies that continue to develop.

International base station assessment standards update

AMTA noted that Australian industry has high levels of international engagement in workshops to look at the issues of exposure measurement methods for new technologies such as 5G. It noted that these issues feed directly into the reporting of EME levels to the community, and current protocols or tools used to communicate EME levels need revision to account for the changes in technology.