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C5 Contesting Working Group Report from September 2017 to February 2019

C5CWG is a new working body of the C5 committee (GC Landshut 2017). At the conference 9 members were elected. As the representatives of two largest member societies (DARC and RSGB) had no representative in this WG, we decided to add two consultation members. As one elected member never responded, the total number of members is now 10 (dl3mbg, ha0lc, f5len, g0fct, iv3kkw, oe1mcu, ok1vao, om3bh, on4avj, s53ww).

Already in 2017 we conducted survey among IARU R1 VHF&up contesting community:
https://www.iaru-r1.org/images/VHF/File_Repository/IARU_R1_Results_of_Contest_Survey_2017.pdf

Based on the survey results new contest rules were prepared:
<https://www.iaru-r1.org/index.php/vhfuhsshf/contest-matters/contest-rules-for-2018>

We agreed that contest rules will not change for the next 3 to 5 years.

We prepared the contest results for 2017 contest which took more than 100 hours of manual work. This exercise revealed all the limitations of the contest server at that time. Therefore detailed requirements document for improving the IARU contest server was prepared.

It turned out that there is little interest in funding IARU R1 contest server development within the IARU organization. Therefore we approached external sponsors to fund most important parts of the server improvements. We are extremely grateful to OE1MCU and DARC for their support.

It was a busy year for C5CWG: we had 9 Skype meetings and hundreds of email exchanges.

Work that still needs to be done before the WG can focus its efforts to promoting IARU R1 contests with the goal to increase the activity on VHF and microwave bands:

- finding sponsor(s) that will cover the cost of implementing remaining contest server improvements
- sorting out GDPR compliance for logged-in users (VHF/CONTEST managers) when downloading ZIP packages containing the logs (to be used for cross-checking of their national/regional contests)
- finding sponsor that will fund GDPR related modifications on the contest server for non-IARU contests log exchange/sharing feature
- sorting out contest server ownership