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## DEAR READER,

You are holding a copy of the Intersputnik corporate newsletter and this means that you are interested in what our international organization is dealing with today, what plans it makes and what targets it sets before itself. Obviously, these questions were answered at the joint session of the governing bodies – the Board and the Operations Committee – that took place in May 2019. As the newly elected Chairman of the Intersputnik Board, I would like to briefly describe what decisions were made by the session. But in the first place, I cannot but note that after a rather long time span this event was held in Germany and hosted by the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy that, among other things, supervises international cooperation in the field of telecommunications.

The joint session was opened in a solemn atmosphere as the Director General of Intersputnik and the Executive Secretary of the European Telecommunications Satellite Organization EUTELSAT signed an agreement on cooperation between the two intergovernmental organizations. It is noteworthy in this context that twelve Intersputnik member-countries are at the same time parties of the EUTELSAT intergovernmental organization. Therefore, the agreement is a logical step towards closer relations between our organizations.

Coming back to the results of the joint session, I would like to highlight the most significant ones.

The delegates reviewed progress in the implementation of the Program

for the Development of Satellite Telecommunications Business in the Intersputnik member-countries that had been approved last year and had taken effect on January 1, 2019. In Q1 2019, information on this Program, its requirements and the procedure of bidding was circulated to interested companies in the member-countries. Tentatively, interest for funding under the Program was shown by companies from Hungary, Laos, Mongolia, Somalia, and Russia. In early April 2019, the Directorate started accepting the first bids. The Board and the Operations Committee upheld steps taken to put the Program into practice and suggested postponing the tender until a later date so that potential participants could have more time to thoroughly prepare their bids. Thus, it is now planned to complete the tender and sign documents with the recipients of funding by the end of the current year.

Of much interest to the delegates was information concerning cooperation with AirspaceIX, which builds innovative light satellites named NationSat. AirspaceIX and Intersputnik had entered into a marketing agreement to jointly promote NationSat-series satellites on the global market. The Directorate had held discussions for the satellites to be potentially used to expand domestic satellite telecommunications systems in Bolivia, India, Mongolia, Nepal, and Kazakhstan. In some cases, the use of the NationSat-series satellites had been discussed in the context of joint projects involving the use of Intersputnik's orbit and spectrum resource. The Board and the Operations Committee made decisions to further support a project using such satellites.

At their joint session, the Board and the Operations Committee welcomed the decision made by two member-countries, namely, Nicaragua and Laos, to ratify the Protocol on Amendments to the Intersputnik Agreement. In compliance with this decision, an official representative of the Ministry of Post and Telecommunications

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of Laos signed the Intersputnik Operating Agreement during the session.

There were also reviewed other issues, which are described in this newsletter.

In conclusion, I would like to underline that Germany attaches great importance to Intersputnik's further development because it was our country that stood at the origins of the Organization and was one of the first countries to sign the agreement on its establishment in 1971.

*I wish you every success!* ●