

ANNEX G – SOURCES OF IOTA INFORMATION

OFFICIAL SOURCES OF INFORMATION

RSGB IOTA's web-site¹ and the linked **IOTA Manager's web-site**², between them, provide the following:

- A list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on IOTA
- IOTA Programme Rules
- A list of authorised IOTA Checkpoints
- A detailed listing of IOTA groups by continent, region and country
- A listing of IOTA groups by short title only
- Updates of material published in the latest IOTA Directory including IOTA group numbers confirmed and islands validated
- A listing of DXpeditions that have submitted satisfactory validation material
- A listing of the Most Wanted IOTA groups by continent
- Information on how to obtain the IOTA Directory (*link to the RSGB web-site*³)
- IOTA Contest information (*link to the RSGB HF Contests Committee's web-site*⁴)

The RSGB IOTA web-site allows you to search the island listings by IOTA group number or island name – and returns the relevant listing together with details of rarity and past and future operations.

IOTA NEWS bulletins are issued quarterly by Roger Balister, G3KMA⁵, RSGB IOTA Manager, to DX bulletin publishers for distribution to their subscribers either on Internet or by post.

Radio Communication (RadCom), the monthly journal of the RSGB (see its web-site³), covers IOTA in a bi-monthly column.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION ON IOTA ACTIVITY

RSGB IOTA's web-site¹, containing, among so much else, details of forthcoming DXpeditions taken from reliable sources. Check the bottom of the home page for expeditions currently active and follow the link for future planned activity. Intending DXpeditioners are encouraged to enter their own information via a web-form. This service is moderated so there may be a delay before the information appears. DXpeditioners should also send their information direct to the news editors below.

425 DX News, a weekly e-mail DX bulletin issued by IOTA Committee Member (Europe) Mauro Pregliasco, I1JQJ⁶. This carries IOTA news prominently – official news releases and listings, DXpedition activity reports, a calendar of forthcoming events – as well as a host of other useful material. For more information, check the 425 DX News web-site⁷.

The Daily DX, the first subscription-based e-mail DX bulletin, published by Bernie McClenny, W3UR⁸. This provides a comprehensive daily commentary on the DX scene with a prominent IOTA section listing island activity. You may prefer to subscribe to **The Weekly DX**, which is also available. For full details, check Bernie's home-page⁹.

QRZ DX, another long established weekly bulletin, published by Carl Smith, N4AA, in paper and electronic formats. For more information check Carl's web-site¹⁰.

Les Nouvelles DX (LNDX), a French language bi-weekly bulletin, published in paper format by Jean-Michel Duthilleul, F6AJA¹¹, IOTA Country Assistant for France. This carries official news releases and listings, DXpedition activity reports, and a calendar of forthcoming events.

INTERNET REFLECTOR AND FORUMS

Islands on the Web (IOTW), a highly impressive, general purpose IOTA web-site¹² maintained by Chris Taron, NK1K. This site contains; three e-mail discussion forums covering Skeds and Rumours of upcoming IOTA expeditions, General IOTA Matters, and the IOTA Contest; a calendar of expected activity; databases of IOTA information; and on-line DXing tools. There is an extra facility that, after registration, allows you to receive, as e-mails, all postings to the discussion forums.

OTHER INFORMATION SOURCES

The **New DX Summit web cluster**¹³ is an invaluable aid to serious DXing and island chasing. It provides a means of keeping an eye on the bands both while in the shack and away from the home QTH. It offers listings of the last 25, 50, 250 etc spots logged from clusters world-wide, including a customised service by band and special interest including IOTA, as well as WWV reports and announcements. The search facility is a high value help to the IOTA enthusiast as you can check for spots for call-signs and IOTA numbers activated not just recently but going back to 2001!

Some Checkpoints provide an IOTA information service for their customers. Also an increasing number of IOTA operators and expeditioners maintain home pages with IOTA information and features. Try the pages of **W9DC**¹⁴, **DL2VFR**¹⁵, **the IOTA Japanese Group**¹⁶ and **J16KVR**¹⁷ among others¹⁸.

Many of the sources above provide links to a range of national island award programmes that are now well-established.

VISUAL AIDS

Google Earth¹⁹ is a fascinating mapping tool, based on satellite imagery, available as a free download for personal use to those who have both access to broadband and sufficient computer memory. Called *A 3D interface to the planet* it shows the earth as a revolving globe from outer space with a facility to zoom quickly in on a chosen location – country, city, village, even street. We highly recommend it for DXpeditioners who wish to check out their target island. It has a useful additional facility to measure distances between two points down to the nearest metre (yes, this could be an island from the mainland!). If you find maps enthralling, don't miss this great visual aid.

The **VOACAP Quick Guide: QTH Locator**²⁰ is another very useful aid for pinpointing the location of an island or a station. You need to know the Maidenhead grid locator or geographical co-ordinates. You then have a good chance of being able to zoom down to street level and see exactly what you need. If you don't know your grid locator or want to check it, this will help you find out!

¹ <http://www.rsgbiota.org>

² <http://www.g3kma.dsl.pipex.com>

³ <http://www.rsgb.org>

⁴ <http://www.rsgbhfcc.org>

⁵ g3kma@dsl.pipex.com

⁶ i1jqj@425dxn.org

⁷ <http://www.425dxn.org>

⁸ bernie@dailydx.com

⁹ <http://www.dailydx.com>

¹⁰ <http://www.dpub.com>

¹¹ f6aja@escaut.net

¹² <http://www.islandchaser.com>

¹³ <http://www.dxsummit.fi>

¹⁴ <http://www.w9dc.com>

¹⁵ <http://www.iota-post.de>

¹⁶ http://www001.upp.so-net.ne.jp/ja9iff/iota_e.html

¹⁷ <http://www3.ocn.ne.jp/~iota/>

¹⁸ <http://dx.qsl.net>

¹⁹ <http://www.earth.google.com>

²⁰ <http://www.voacap.com/qth.html>