

ANNEX G – SOURCES OF IOTA INFORMATION

OFFICIAL SOURCES OF INFORMATION

The *IOTA Directory*, as amended from time to time on the RSGB IOTA web-site, is the official voice of the RSGB IOTA Programme.

RSGB IOTA's web-site¹ and the linked *IOTA Manager's web-site²*, between them, provide the following:

- A list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) 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 selected material published in the latest IOTA Directory including new IOTA group numbers issued and islands validated I
- A listing of the Most Wanted IOTA groups by continent)

The RSGB IOTA web-site allows a search of 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.

Periodic *IOTA Notices* are issued on the RSGB IOTA web-site by Roger Balister, G3KMA³, IOTA Manager. The most recent notices are on the home page while earlier ones can be accessed via the IOTA News link on the IOTA Directory page. These are available to DX bulletin publishers for distribution to their subscribers.

Radio Communication (RadCom), the monthly journal of the RSGB (see its web-site³), covers IOTA in the HF column edited by Martin Atherton, G3ZAY.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION ON IOTA ACTIVITY WEBSITES

RSGB IOTA's web-site¹ contains, 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 Activations 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.

DX-World.net⁴ is a very attractive web-site run by a dedicated team of DXers and IOTA enthusiasts, which is updated daily by Col McGowan, MM0NDX. It allows the readers to submit their own DX or IOTA information.

Announced DX Operations⁵ provides a list of current and future DX operations, maintained by William Feidt, NG3K, which includes data about the more noteworthy IOTA activity. Past operations can be tracked back to as early as 1996.

DX BULLETINS

425 DX News⁶ is a highly-recommended weekly e-mail DX bulletin issued by IOTA Committee Member (Europe) Mauro Pregliasco, I1JQJ⁷. This carries IOTA news prominently as well as official IOTA news releases and listings, DXpedition activity reports, a calendar of forthcoming events and a wealth of other useful material.

The OPDX Bulletin⁸ is another highly-recommended weekly e-mail DX bulletin, edited by Tedd Mirgliotta, KB8NW. IOTA news is presented under its own special header, listed by the IOTA reference group number.

The Daily DX⁹, the first subscription-based e-mail DX bulletin, is published by Bernie McClenny, W3UR¹⁰. 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 by e-mail.

INTERNET REFLECTOR AND FORUM

The *IOTA-chasers Yahoo Forum¹¹* provides a meeting-place for IOTA enthusiasts to exchange information and share views about different aspects of the IOTA Programme including island operations, QSL queries, etc.

OTHER INFORMATION SOURCES

The *My DXSummit web cluster¹²*, managed by Radio Arcala, OH8X, 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, in a choice of quantity from 10 to 1000, of spots logged from clusters world-wide, including a customised service by band and special interest including IOTA. The search facility is particularly valuable to the IOTA enthusiast for checking for spots for IOTA stations activated not just recently but going back to 1997!

Most **Checkpoints** provide an IOTA information service for their customers. Check to see if your Checkpoint has one.

An increasing number of *IOTA Operators and Expeditioners* maintain home pages with reports on their activity as well as QSL instructions. Others post this information in their call-sign entry in **QRZ.com**. It is also always worth checking **Google** to see what is available.

Most of *the sources above* provide information on activity for the DXCC programme as well as links to a range of national island award programmes that are now well-established and popular.

VISUAL AIDS

Google Earth¹³ is a fascinating mapping tool, based on satellite imagery, available as a free download for personal use. 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. It is highly recommended for DXpeditioners who wish to check out their target island. It has a useful facility to measure distances between two points down to the nearest metre.

VOACAP Online¹⁴ is another very useful aid for pinpointing the location of an island or a station if you know the Maidenhead grid locator or geographical co-ordinates. If you don't know your grid locator or want to check it, this will help you find out!

NOAA Space Weather Prediction Center¹⁵ provides daily information about solar weather, aurora predictions, and other parameters influencing radio propagation.

¹ <http://www.rsgbiota.org>

² <http://www.g3kma.dsl.pipex.com>

³ g3kma@dsl.pipex.com

⁴ <http://dx-world.net>

⁵ <http://www.ng3k.com/misc/adxo.html>

⁶ <http://www.425dxn.org>

⁷ i1jqj@425dxn.org

⁸ <http://www.papays.com/opdx.html>

⁹ <http://www.dailydx.com>

¹⁰ bernie@dailydx.com

¹¹ iota-chasers-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

¹² <http://www.dxsummit.fi>

¹³ <https://earth.google.co.uk>

¹⁴ <http://www.voacap.com/qth.html>

¹⁵ <http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/>