

9.12A A NOTE ON THE PROPOSED UK VHF RADAR

A. J. Hall

Rutherford Appleton Laboratory
Chilton, Didcot, Oxon, UK

The proposal for the establishment of a VHF radar in the UK reported in MAP Handbook No. 9, 1983 pp 387-397 is still under active consideration, although for financial reasons no start has yet been made on an installation.

Several changes have been made to the scheme as described and these are listed below.

- (1) The initial installation will be suitable for ST operation only using 64 antennas and 2 power modules.
- (2) An existing site is being examined on the west coast of Wales, which because it is a former Loran ground station is provided with the buildings, power and communications facilities to enable a radar to be assembled much more quickly than a green field site would allow. Because the site is not within a mountain valley as originally intended, careful early attention will have to be given to the possible problems of local interference and sea-surface returns.
- (3) Preliminary discussions with the UK licensing authorities suggest that a frequency of 47 MHz is more likely than 50 MHz.
- (4) Minor changes are planned in the antenna array connection scheme of the 400-element MST array to allow more precise sidelobe suppression to be achieved in the receive mode.

It is hoped that an ST radar will be in operation before the end of 1985.