

MetOp Second Generation Front-End Receivers

Requirement Specification for Flight Waveguides

Issue 2.0

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CHANGE LOG

Date	Issue	Revision	Pages	Reason for change
10 Oct 2018	1	0	All	First Issue
01 Nov 2018	2	0	All	Second issue for ITT







MOS-RS-RAL-MWS-FERX0017

Date: 01 Nov 2018

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Applicable Documents

AD #	APPLICABLE DOCUMENT TITLE	DOCUMENT ID	ISSUE
14b	MetOp SG PA requirements for suppliers	MOS.SP.ASF.SYS.00401	3.0

Reference Documents

I	RD #	REFERENCE DOCUMENT TITLE	DOCUMENT ID	ISSUE
	1	Statement of Work for Flight Waveguides	MOS-SOW-RAL-MWS-FERX0005	2.0
	2			

Abbreviations and Definitions

- FERX Front End Receiver
- FMn Flight Model n (n=2, 3)
- FS Flight Spare
- MRR Manufacturing Readiness Review
- MWI Microwave Imager
- MWS Microwave Sounder
- PA Product Assurance
- PFM Protoflight Model





1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose

The STFC RAL Space Department Millimetre-wave Technology Group (MMTG) is presently embarked on a major equipment supply programme for the MetOp Second Generation (MetOp-SG) series of Earth observation satellites. MetOp-SG will deliver complex multi-wavelength instrument payloads into low Earth orbit via a series of repeat satellite deployments to be initiated in 2021. MMTG are leading a consortium to deliver Front End Receivers (FERX) at frequencies from 166GHz to 325GHz for three different instruments – Microwave Sounder (MWS), Microwave Imager (MWI) and Ice Cloud Imager (ICI). STFC's customers are Airbus UK, Airbus France and Radiometer Physics GmbH (Germany) respectively. The receivers will be integrated into instruments which will ultimately be delivered to the European Space Agency for launch. The FERX for MWS and MWI incorporate high-frequency waveguides with complex geometries which must be manufactured to tight tolerances.

1.2 Scope

This document describes the activities and deliverables required to fulfil the requirement for flight waveguide assemblies for the FERX units to be provided for the MWS and MWI instruments.





2. REQUIREMENTS

The publications listed in the Applicable Document table form part of this document to the extent specified herein. Unless an issue is quoted for a document the current issue is deemed to apply. When an issue is quoted that issue and no other shall be used.

2.1 Waveguide Variants

The required waveguide assembly types are listed in Table 2-1.

Drawing number	Description	Used on
KE-0282-015-A	166 GHz LO chain waveguide	MWS-FERX166
KE-0282-018-A	183 GHz LO chain waveguide	MWS-FERX183
KE-0282-026-C	229 GHz LO chain waveguide	MWS-FERX229
KE-0282-038-C	229 GHz LO test port waveguide	MWS-FERX229
KE-0282-132-C	166 GHz LO test port waveguide	MWS-FERX166
KE-0282-220-D	183 GHz LO test port waveguide	MWS-FERX183
KE-0282-433-D	166 GHz LO test port waveguide	MWI-FERX166
KE-0282-533-D	183 GHz LO test port waveguide	MWI-FERX183

Drawings of all required waveguide assemblies are included as Appendix 1.

2.2 Construction

2.2.1 Materials

RAL's preferred construction is for the supplier to provide nickel-plated items (fabricated in e.g. thinwalled copper) for subsequent gold-plating at RAL. This also places the bulk of the qualification activities for the assemblies under RAL control; RAL have excellent facilities for this work and can realise a rapid qualification programme which is essential for this procurement.

2.2.2 Plated Finish

High conductivity surface coating of the inside of the waveguide is required to meet the MetOP SG performance requirements. RAL's requirement is to take delivery of nickel-plated assemblies and to perform the final gold-plating at RAL; in this instance a minimum plated nickel thickness of 2µm is required on the internal waveguide surfaces.

This approach acknowledges that gold-plating of the waveguide internal surfaces is particularly challenging; RAL have a proprietary in-house process for plating the inside of hollow nickel or nickel-plated waveguides which has been demonstrated to have excellent RF performance.

Materials and processes used must be compatible with the MetOP SG Product Assurance Requirements for Suppliers [AD14b], and the performance requirements of section 2.3.



2.3 Performance

The RF performance requirements for nickel-plated waveguide assemblies are presented in Table 2-2.

Part Number	FERX	WG Band	Frequency, f0 (GHz)	Insertion Loss @ F0 (dB)	Return Loss @ F0 (dB)
KE-0282-015-A	MWS165 Chain	WR-10	82.75	<1.2	<-25
KE-0282-018-A	MWS183 Chain	WR-10	91.65	<1.2	<-25
KE-0282-026-C	MWS229 Chain	WR-15	57.25	<0.6	<-25
KE-0282-038-C	MWS229 Test	WR-15	57.25	<1.2	<-25
KE-0282-132-C	MWS165 Test	WR-10	82.75	<2.2	<-20
KE-0282-220-D	MWS183 Test	WR-10	91.65	<2.0	<-20
KE-0282-433-D	MWI165 Test	WR-10	82.75	<1.5	<-20
KE-0282-533-D	MWI183 Test	WR-10	91.65	<2.2	<-20

Table 2-2 Performance Requirements for nickel/nickel-plated waveguide

2.4 Mass

The maximum mass limits for the waveguide assemblies are presented in Table 2-3.

Part Number	FERX	WG Band	Mass maximum (g)
KE-0282-015-A	MWS165 Chain	WR-10	17
KE-0282-018-A	MWS183 Chain	WR-10	18
KE-0282-026-C	MWS229 Chain	WR-15	17
KE-0282-038-C	MWS229 Test	WR-15	21
KE-0282-132-C	MWS165 Test	WR-10	20
KE-0282-220-D	MWS183 Test	WR-10	20
KE-0282-433-D	MWI165 Test	WR-10	20
KE-0282-533-D	MWI183 Test	WR-10	20

Table 2-3 Mass limits for waveguide assemblies



3. QUALITY ASSURANCE PROVISIONS

3.1 Inspection and Acceptance (plating)

3.1.1 Visual Inspection of Plating

Visual inspection and acceptance criteria which will be applied at RAL are described in the following section:

After plating, all waveguide assemblies will be visually inspected. While the ideal is a completely blemish-free assembly, some cosmetic defects due to e.g. surface bubbles during plating may be acceptable. The location (whether it is in a critical or not critical area) and size of such defects will determine the acceptability or otherwise of the assembly.

Critical and non-critical areas (plating).

The critical areas are the internal features of waveguide assemblies and all mating faces; i.e. all areas that may affect the module performance.

Similarly, non-critical areas are any areas that do not affect the module performance and where the impact of any blemish is largely cosmetic.

Figure 1 shows an example of a waveguide assembly highlighting the critical areas.



Figure 1 Example of critical areas in a common waveguide assembly

Size definition of cosmetic defects.

Any cosmetic defect larger than 2 mm in diameter and/or length is considered a large defect. Any cosmetic defect between 1-2 mm in diameter and/or length is considered a mid-size defect and any cosmetic defect of less than 1 mm in diameter and/or length is considered a small defect.

Figure 2 shows an example of a plated waveguide assembly with a small surface blemish (circled) close to the front edge. This is a small defect, in a non-critical area of the assembly; provided there are no further blemishes, this assembly would be passed as acceptable.

NB the finish in this instance is gold however the same criteria apply to the required nickel-plated finish.





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Figure 2. Example of small blemish in waveguide assembly gold plating in a non-critical area (Accept)

N.B. A similar size blemish occurring in a critical area of the assembly would mean that the assembly was rejected.

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Figure 3 and Figure 4 show examples of assemblies, which will be rejected as having unacceptable plating defects, generally indicative of inadequate or incomplete pre-plate cleaning.



Figure 3. Example of mid-size blemish in gold plating (Reject)



Figure 4. Example of large blemish in gold plating in a critical area (Reject)





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3.1.2 Control of Plating Thickness

Plating thickness on all delivered assemblies shall be verified by the supplier using an appropriate method. 100% inspection using X-ray fluorescence is preferred, however micro-section on batch samples is acceptable.

3.2 Inspection of Joints

All joints shall be inspected in accordance with EN ISO 4063-912 and EN ISO 4063-942.

3.2.1 Visual inspection of joints

Any joints formed using soldering, brazing or welding shall meet the requirements of [AD14b].

3.2.2 X-ray inspection of joints

The supplier shall inspect all joints formed using soldering, brazing, welding or other additive techniques by means of 100% X-ray imaging prior to delivery to RAL; the imaging reports shall be delivered to RAL with the waveguide assembly. All joints shall meet the requirements of [AD14b].

3.3 Documentation

The supplier shall provide a Certificate of Conformance and accompanying inspection reports certifying that the item(s) conform to the requirements of this requirement specification. The certificates of conformance shall identify the item by, as a minimum, its description and the batch number for the purpose of maintaining traceability.

3.4 Batch Splitting

When a delivery contains more than one batch of an item then each batch and the containers shall be clearly labelled with the different batch numbers and date of manufacture. Separate certificates of conformance shall be supplied. When a batch is split for separate deliveries each delivery shall meet this requirement.

3.5 Packaging, Storage and Transportation

The item shall have been packaged, stored at or by the manufacturer/supplier, and shall be transported in conditions that prevent damage, deterioration and contamination.

3.6 Identification

As a minimum the primary package marking shall identify the material/item by:

- The part/drawing number
- The quantity
- The manufacturer's/supplier's batch number

In addition, the certificates of conformance and/or the accompanying goods despatch/advice note shall provide the following information:

- Procurement Requirement Specification number and issue
- Identification name
- PO number



- Batch identification number
- Date of manufacture and date/time of mix where appropriate
- Supplier's name and address
- Part number
- Drawing number

3.7 Process Qualification

Any processes used by the supplier in the manufacture of the waveguide assemblies, e.g. soldering, brazing, welding, plating etc., shall either be qualified to the requirements of [AD14b] or be capable of qualification to meet said requirements.

Where process qualification is required, the supplier shall provide a quotation for the required qualification activities. Note that RAL may be able to provide support for such a qualification activity in the form of environmental testing and/or destructive physical analysis.

An example of a process qualification workflow meeting the requirements of [AD14b] is presented in Appendix 2.

3.8 Retention of Records

All records pertaining to the delivered product shall be retained for a minimum of five years from shipment or as defined on the PO, whichever is greater.

Where the supplier cannot guarantee record retention for the designated time period for those records then these shall be provided at no extra cost to RAL at time of product delivery.

3.9 Receipt Inspection

The supplier shall provide an inspection report of acceptable dimensional tolerances (as per drawing) and functional features including but not limited to:

- Solder inspection
- Plating thickness
- RF performance measurements

RAL PA will establish to its satisfaction that the item conforms to the requirements of Section 3. This may take the form of either or both source inspection by RAL or its representative and receipt inspection performed using form [RD2] as needed.





Appendix 1

WAVEGUIDE ASSEMBLY DRAWINGS









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CENTRE LINE OF WAVEGUIDE	27,5 ±0,1	LILCONE MUST NOT BE USED.				RE LINE OF W	AVEGUIDE	WAVEGUIDE 2,54 X 1,27	
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SURFACE FINISH 1. COMPONENT SURFACE FINISH: GOLD PLATE. PROCEI	DURE TBD.				ISSUE	DATE	MOD. No.	DRAWN BY	СНК
PRODUCT ASSURANCE 1. COMPONENT TO BE LI FANEN AT RAI ALLORDING T	O RAL SPFLIFILATION ISO SPAN	AIV 102.			RAL SPA	CE L	JSED ON	KE-0282-410	
2. INSPECTION REQUIREMENTS – REFER TO ISO-SPAP	-MECH-007.				HARWELL	SCIENCE & INNO	OVATION CAMP	US, RUTHERFORD APPLETON	LABORATO
PROJECTION	TOLERANCES UNLI LINEAR ± 0 ANGULAR ± 0	ESS STATED 1 2	SURFACE TEXTURE	n		WR-10	TEST V	VAVE GUIDE A	SSEM
DRAWING CONFORMS TO BS 8888 TOLERANCING ISO 8015	MATERIAL & SPEC.	MASS 0.022 kg	GOLD PLATE		Met-O	p SG			
DIMENSIONS IN mm UNLESS STATED	SEE NOTES		REMOVE ALL BURF	RS	A3	ke	e-028	32-433	







Appendix 2

PROCESS QUALIFICATION WORKFLOW (INFORMATIVE)

The following example qualification flow illustrates the qualification steps for waveguide assemblies which are manufactured in copper, with soldered flanges, and nickel-plated by the supplier before supply to RAL. Other construction techniques would have a comparable qualification path in order to meet the requirements of [AD14b].

The envisaged process requires 2 categories of test using different test pieces:

- 1. Bend Test: Test of 6 x sample nickel- and gold-plated test pieces (comprising longitudinallysectioned straight waveguide pieces as defined in Appendix 3) to verify the integrity and adhesion of the supplier nickel-plating and RAL gold-plating processes (Figure A2-1)
- Complex Test Piece: Test of 8 complete waveguide assembly samples (defined in Appendix 4), including soldered flanges, nickel- and gold-plating, of which 2 will be retained by the supplier and 6 supplied to RAL for gold-plating and subsequent environmental testing (Figure A2-2)









Figure A2-2 Test Workflow for complete Waveguide Assemblies (complex test pieces)



Appendix 3

BEND TEST PIECE

Bend tests will be carried out on "Bend test pieces" fabricated and plated using the same materials and processes as the complex waveguide test pieces and Flight waveguides. Precise definition of the test piece can be agreed between RAL and supplier however a possible configuration is shown below:

The test piece(s) would initially be fabricated and plated as complete straight waveguide assemblies, with flanges.



This would then be gold-plated at RAL, the flanges removed, and the waveguide sectioned along its length to produce the final bend test piece as illustrated below:







MetOp-SG

Appendix 4

COMPLEX TEST PIECE

The complex test piece will be a complete waveguide assembly, supplied nickel-plated. This will typically be the longest of the required types.



