



FROM THE UK MICROWAVE GROUP

To whom it may concern:

Dutch Amateur Radio Microwave Beacon Transmitters

The UK Microwave Group, the representative organisation for amateur microwave radio operators in the United Kingdom, views with considerable alarm and dismay the recent demand placed upon **Mr J.C.J (Hans) Van Alphen**, the holder of the Amateur Radio callsign PA0EHG, to remove the microwave beacon transmitters that he had installed on the Air Traffic Control Tower at Schipol airport, Amsterdam. The beacons had been erected with the full approval of the airport authorities and are fully licensed under stringent Dutch radio regulations.

Mr Alphen installed the first beacon at Schipol in 1990. For many years, these beacons have been a vital and invaluable tool in the study of radio propagation at microwave frequencies, not only by amateur enthusiasts in the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and other countries of Western Europe but also by various non-amateur organisations such as universities and government departments engaged in radio communications. In addition to their propagation study value, the beacons have also been used in the adjustment of equipment, particularly frequency calibration.

Mr Alphen, along with several amateur radio friends, spent considerable time, money and expertise assembling these beacons to a high standard of construction and performance. Filters were included to remove the risk of interference to other nearby radio communication equipment (including radar systems). The fact that these beacons have operated interference free in an airport environment for some fifteen years bears testimony to the constructor's expertise.

Over a period of many years Mr Alphen has constructed beacon transmitters for the following microwave frequencies (callsigns shown in brackets):

2320.000MHz (PI7EHG)
3400.0150MHz (PI7SHF)
5760.035MHz (PI7EHG)
10368.200MHz (PI7EHG)
24048.200MHz (PI7EHG)
47088.888MHz (PI7EHG)

The UK Microwave Group therefore wishes to strongly support either the reinstatement of these beacon transmitters at their original location or at some other favourable location so that microwave spectrum users across Western Europe can once again continue experiments in propagation over long distances at these frequencies. It is our considered opinion that the beacons constitute no security risk or indeed any danger of interference to other users of this part of the radio spectrum.

Further information about the Dutch Amateur microwave beacons can be found at the following website:

<http://home.planet.nl/~alphe078/history.htm>

Information about the UK Microwave Group, which is Affiliated to the Radio Society of Great Britain and has direct access to the International Amateur Radio Union region 1 via its representatives on the RSGB Spectrum forum, can be found at: www.microwavers.org .

Yours sincerely,

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