

# ADDENDUM

## Announcement of New IOTA Groups at RSGB Convention 14 October 2018

IOTA Management announced on 31 August 2018 on the IOTA website the five yearly review of the Directory list of IOTA groups. The intention was to release a small number of additions at this year's RSGB Convention in Milton Keynes with a second tranche at Ham Radio Friedrichshafen in June 2019. On Sunday 14 October IOTA General Manager and Programme Administrator Roger Balister, G3KMA announced the first tranche of six new groups at the RSGB Convention. They covered a Swedish/Finnish joint sovereignty island and groups in North America, Asia and Oceania. All new groups have provisional numbers. This means that they will need to be confirmed by an operation taking place after 14 October 2018 that meets the 1000 QSO and other normal validation requirements. Only after confirmation of the number will credit for past operations be considered for transfer to the new number. Announcement of a second tranche at Friedrichshafen 2019 is still our plan.

First, the reason behind adding groups. Some 20 years ago the then RSGB IOTA Committee took the decision to cap the IOTA Programme at 1200 groups. We reckoned that there were a million islands, give or take another half million! We could have followed the practice of others in a similar situation and left the programme open-ended and in our case allowed every island to count separately. While this would have provided an ongoing challenge, it would not have provided any sort of level playing field as it would have hugely advantaged chasers who had lots of time on their hands. Also it would have been an administrative nightmare, probably unmanageable. The 1200 cap seemed reasonable. This meant structuring the programme in such a way that the world's ocean islands could all be accommodated. A series of criteria for grouping island was adopted – I won't go into detail here as full information is in the IOTA Directory.

Prior to adding these new ones we had 1166 groups that had confirmed or provisional IOTA numbers. Only some 1124 of these had ever seen activity, the remaining 42 were awaiting an operation. Another 33 groups were listed in the Directory unnumbered, meaning that either we had not identified a qualifying island in the co-ordinates box or that we suspected that, as they were mostly in Antarctica, they might never be activated and it was not worth spending time on them. The current top scorer in the IOTA Honour Roll has 1120 groups and some 40 other chasers have scores above 1100. Accepting that almost all of the 33 unnumbered groups may never be activated, we are inclined to the view that there is some headroom to fill if we are to get nearer the 1200 cap. These five yearly reviews are aimed at achieving this. We thought it only right in the interests of transparency and inclusion to invite the IOTA community to propose candidates, each with a note on how they met the programme qualification criteria. It achieved its purpose. As a final aside, without changing the criteria, and there is no proposal to do so, the number of candidates will taper down over time.

The following six groups have been added:

**AS-204P R0F Kuril'skiye Islands North, Sakhalinskaya Oblast', Russian Federation – Asia (=Atlasov, Shumshu, Paramushir, Antsiferova, Makanrushi, Onekotan, Kharimkotan, Chirinkotan, Ekarma, Shiashkotan, Raikoke, Matua, Rasshua, Ushishir, Ketoy, Simushir) 46°40–51°00N 151°30–156°38E** A new group, created by splitting AS-025 Kuril'skiye Islands into two. The islands extend over a distance of more than 1200 km. Adverse comparisons are made with the Aleutian Island Chain and the Hawaiian Island Chain where there are many separate IOTA groups. Some information sources treat North and South Kurils as 'officially recognised island groups'. This together with the need to act in the interests of fairness justifies the addition. Most activity has been from the South Kurils. **The title of AS-025 has been changed to Kuril'skiye Islands South with the above-mentioned islands transferred to AS-204P and its co-ordinates box changed to 43°35–46°47N 145°20–151°30E.**

**AS-205P R0X Bering Sea Coast North group, Koryakskiy Avtonomnyy Okrug, Russian Federation – Asia (=Yoanna Bogoslova, Vasiliya Islands) 59°54–61°49N 170°18–174°30E** New 'unofficial/coastal island group' (one of the criteria for qualification as a separate IOTA group), created by splitting the current AS-064 Bering Sea Coast group into two. Yoanna Bogoslova Island lies 460 km away in a straight line from Verkhoturova Island, and 485 km away from Karaginskiy Island, the only two island counters of this group. The Vasiliya Islands are further away. This distance-spread in a group is quite exceptional. We allowed AS-091 in a neighbouring area to be split in July 2014, the separation being 500 km or more. No known previous amateur radio activity. **The title of AS-064 has been changed to Bering Sea Coast Centre group and its co-ordinates box to 57°20–60°35N 162°00–170°18E. The title of AS-095 has been changed to Bering Sea Coast South group.**

**EU-192P SM/OM Kataja Island, Sweden/Finland (=Kataja) 65°41–65°43N 024°07–024°11E** new split sovereignty island' (another of the criteria for qualification), located in the very north of the Gulf of Bothnia. Since the signing of the 1809 agreement between Sweden and Russia which settled the border ground rise has caused the Swedish island Kataja and the smaller Finnish island Inakari to merge forming a larger island two km long. The border between Sweden and Finland now crosses the island, similar to Market Reef. No known previous amateur radio activity.

**NA-249P KP3, 4 Puerto Rico's Coastal Islands, Puerto Rico (=Caja de Muertos, Culebra, Culebrita, Mona, Monito, Vieques) 17°48–18°40N 065°09–068°00W Valid for the West Indies Award.** New 'unofficial/coastal island group' (islands of a certain size can have one or more coastal island groups). This is justified on the grounds that Puerto Rico NA-099 is of a similar size to Corsica which has a coastal island group. Some five previous operations have taken place, three from Vieques, and one each from Culebra and Mona. **The co-ordinates box of NA-099 has been changed to 17°54–18°34N 065°35–067°18W with the above-mentioned islands transferred to NA-249P.**

**NA-250P KL Yakutat County group, Alaskan Coastal Groups, United States (Alaska) (=Fitzgerald, Gregson, Khantaak, Knight, Kriwoi, Krutoi, Otmeloi) 58°48–60°00N 137°56–141°00W** New 'unofficial/coastal island group', created by splitting the current NA-161 Skagway-Yakutat County group. It can be justified on the grounds that the qualifying islands in both groups are separated by at least 250 km and the two administrative counties can be easily split. No known previous amateur radio activity. **The title of NA-161 has been changed to Skagway County group and its co-ordinates box to 58°12–58°48N 135°00–138°00W with the above-mentioned islands transferred to NA-250P. The following qualifying islands have been added to NA-161: Boulder, Drake, Eider, Flapjack, Francis, Inian Islands, Kidney, Leland Islands, Lemesurier, Link, Marble Islands, Spider, Strawberry, Sturgess, Taylor and Willoughby.**

**OC-297P FO Morane Atoll, Tuamotu Islands, French Polynesia (=Morane) 23°05S–23°15S 137°05–137°11W** New 'remote island group' (another criterion for qualification requiring 150 km separation). This island, previously an outlier of the OC-113 Actaeon group, lies a distance of 153 km from Maria Est Island, the nearest island in the rest of the Tuamotus. No known previous amateur radio activity. **The co-ordinates box of OC-113 has been changed to 21°10–22°05S 135°20–136°48W with Morane Atoll transferred to OC-297P.**

## **Amendments to IOTA Directory 2018**

### **Annex A – Checkpoints and Contact Points**

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### **Additional qualifying islands in Island Listings**

AF-111: Dead, Monkey, Telengbe (all south of Baddu Point)  
AS-066: Dva Brata, Klykova, Kozlova, Rechnoy, Screbtsova  
OC-203: D'Urville [and remove Note omitting it]  
OC-242: Tinabo [insert after Rajuni Kecil]

### **Company Address**

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28 October 2018

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28 October 2018