

**Report on ARISS QSL Cards
for December 2002 ARISS Meeting at
Goddard Space Flight Center**

**by Rosalie White, K1STO
ARISS Secretary-Treasurer**

At the December 2000 Goddard meeting, it was voted that:

- ARISS would have 1 official QSL card.
- QSL photo & text would change over time to reflect the expanding ISS structure, and the changes to ARISS such as call signs & equipment.
- after ARISS delegates approved the first QSL design, ARRL was to prepare artwork & print cards.
- any ARISS country wanting to distribute QSL cards would purchase (at cost) cards from ARRL.

Call Signs Printed on QSL Card

- ◆ At the December 2000 Goddard meeting, attendees who were IARU experts explained that international radio regulations allowed only the use of Russian and US call signs in space until the Japanese and European ISS modules were launched.
- ◆ Once these modules were launched, crews could use Japanese and European call signs, and the next printing of QSL cards could include those call signs.

At the May 2001 ESTEC meeting, it was reported that:

- ARRL was finalizing the graphics production of the QSL card.
- ARRL needed to know the number of cards each country wanted to purchase.
- Once ARRL knew the total number of cards needed, it would ask for prices from several printers.

At the May 2001 ESTEC meeting:

- A compromise was reached that each ARISS QSL bureau could set their own standards for documentation required from hams who wished to receive a QSL.
- The ARRL ARISS QSL bureau would distribute cards on the honor basis, and would not check records beforehand.
- If they wish, ARISS country partners could set more stringent requirements for issuing QSL cards.

In June and July 2001, after the ESTEC meeting:

- Europe, Japan and Canada gave ARRL the number of ARISS QSL cards they each needed.
- The actual cost per card was \$.38 USD not including the cost of sending the shipment of cards to each country.
- 3,000 cards were printed based on 200 for Canada, 1000 for Europe (decreased later to 250), 500 for Japan. ARRL provided 125 cards to Russia.

As of October 2002:

- Ken Pulfer reports that Canada has received and replied to 50 requests for cards; their supply of cards is fine.
- ARRL has received and replied to nearly 1,000 requests for cards (many from overseas), and has enough QSLs remaining (1,050) to fulfill requests without re-ordering for about 1 year.
- If partner countries need cards, these can be purchased from ARRL at cost plus the shipping charge.
- In the next 6 months, partner countries should consider how they would like to update graphics & text. If desirable, Rosalie can compile all comments.
- AMSAT-France received a price for printing 1,500 glossy-photo 4-color cards: 139 EUR + the shipping charge.