

Terms and Conditions of the AllSky7 Meteorite Working Group

Version 1.0 / 2021-11-28

1. Purpose

With regards to bright fireballs and meteorites, the AllSky7 Fireball Network has the following goals:

- a. to document meteorite-dropping fireballs with high-precision video so that the trajectory, orbit and strewn field can be determined accurately
- b. to use these data to search and collect meteorites immediately after their fall
- c. to have the meteoritic material examined as fresh as possible, and with all relevant analysis techniques by renowned experts
- d. to have the meteorite classified and listed in the Meteoritical Bulletin
- e. to publish the orbit, strewn field, meteorite classification, chemistry, and other relevant information in a scientific paper as a consortium
- f. to preserve as much meteoritical material as possible to science and the public

Recordings of meteorite-dropping fireballs, and finding a meteorite based on AllSky7 Network data are not pure fortune of the camera operator or meteorite finder. They are the result of systematic, year-long investments in time, work and money by many participants to develop the AllSky7 hard- and software, to establish the camera network, and to maintain and operate dozens of camera stations for many years. This system will only work out on the long run, if a fair share of any find based on AllSky7 network data is given back to the AllSky7 Network community, and not that a lucky meteorite finder earns the fruits of this investment alone.

To make sure that the scientific goals are reached, and to let the whole AllSky7 community be rewarded properly, the AllSky7 Meteorite Working Group (AS7 MWG) is established. The working group is based on mutual understanding, respect, fairness and trust. It shall ensure a win-win situation between the camera network and meteorite finders.

2. Participation in the Working Group

The participation in the working group is voluntary. In order to join the working group, you must be the owner or operator of an AllSky7 camera system, and you must have accepted the Terms & Conditions of the AllSky7 Fireball Network.

The working group can decide to invite renowned experts in the field of fireball and meteorite research, or other specialists which are helpful to the group, either temporarily for certain meteorite falls, or permanently. These experts do not need to own or operate an AllSky7 camera on their own.

There is no need for AllSky7 camera owners and operators to join the AllSky7 Meteorite Working Group. Only if they want to be involved in the determination of meteorite strewn fields and to participate in ground searches based on AllSky7 camera data, they must join the working group and accept these terms & conditions.

The consent has to be given by writing an e-mail to consent-mwg@allsky7.groups.io.

The terms and conditions are only effective in their entirety. A working group member cannot claim or expect that only certain rights or duties are effective for him.

3. Information Sharing Principles in the Working Group

All information that results from combining data of different AllSky7 stations like trajectories, orbits, and strewn fields are the intellectual property of the whole network, represented by the mother company AllSky.com, and not by individual camera owners or operators. In the Meteorite Working Group, the analysis results will be shared with camera owners and operators as a privilege, not as a right.

Under most circumstances all data and results shared in the group is temporary and under review. It is not to be released or published until the review is complete. Furthermore, these data possess a significant financial potential, which is why there are strict rules for their handling. Openly sharing trajectories, strewn fields, reduction data or even raw video captures or allowing open-season hunting without obligation jeopardizes our goals and devalues our investments in time, work and money.

All information shared in the working group (data, emails, maps, etc.) is strictly confidential and shall not be shared with anyone outside the group, until the meteorite fall is fully investigated and the information is officially disclosed or published. Even then, the working group may decide to keep certain data confidential to give their local team sufficient time for field searches.

Information is shared within the working group via a closed, unmoderated mailing list. It will be ensured, that only members of the working group are subscribed, so that any confidential information can be shared there directly without further precautions.

The information exchange within the working group is two-way. The analysis team of the group is evaluating the video recordings, calculating trajectories and providing the best possible strewn field data to a local search team.

A local search team is arranging the field search and provides all relevant information like searched areas, meteorite finds, location, mass, in-situ pictures within six hours to the analysis team for possible refinement of the strewn field model.

Depending on the circumstances of specific falls, it may be sensible to disclose certain data early to the public, or to exchange data with other Fireball Networks like FRIPON or GMN. Information should only be exchanged with networks that share similar goals, and when they are of mutual benefit. Rules for sharing of meteoritic material and for publication should ideally be arranged in advance between the networks. One option could be, that the networks agree, in which country the terms of the one or the other network are applied.

4. Material Sharing Principles in the Working Group

All meteoritic material collected by local search teams based on AllSky7 network data is split between the meteorite finder and the community on a 70/30 net rate. That is, 70% of the net material remains for the meteorite finder, and 30% is shared with the AllSky7 community.

Net material means the remaining material after land-owner payment/material acquisition fees and cut-loss have been subtracted.

Right after the find, all meteoritic material has to be provided on loan to a scientific institution for a minimum of one month for radio-isotope analysis. This type of analysis provides valuable information about the origin of the meteorite, and it is non-destructive. Thereafter, the material will be handed back to the meteorite finder.

There are no obligations what the meteorite finder is then doing with the 70% share. However, the AllSky7 community strongly encourages that the material is offered to scientific institutes, observatories, museums and other public institutions, to support our preservation goal. The working group will provide corresponding suggestions to the meteorite finder.

The 30% material for the AllSky7 community is handed over to AllSky.com, the mother company that is organizing the AllSky7 Network globally.

AllSky.com will provide a minimum of 25g of that material for the scientific analysis and classification of the meteorite. If AllSky.com obtains less than 40g net material, it will provide two third of this material for the analysis.

If possible, each camera operator who did not find a meteorite, but substantially contributed to the strewn field calculation with his recording, will get a small sample as a token of appreciation from AllSky.com. It is meant as bonus and to show our commitment to the operator's experience and effort.

The remaining material remains the property of AllSky.com, and can be handled at its own discretion. The material may be loan for the year-long investment into the network, and it may be shared with other camera owners or scientists who want to work with the material.

In countries, where meteorite hunting is not permitted or resulting meteorites are the property of the state, the 70/30 split rule will not apply. Instead, there will be individual agreements in the same spirit. If the state is compensating the meteorite finder, for example, then the profit is to be shared in a 70/30 ratio.

5. Working Procedure in case of a meteorite-dropping fireball

The working procedure for specific events will differ from case to case, because they depend on the circumstances of the event:

- where did the meteorite fall
- who has recorded the fireball within and outside the AllSky7 Fireball Network
- what are the legal restrictions for field searches in that country or region
- which local resources for field searches and scientific analysis are available

However, the collaboration in the working group will be based on the following principles.

- Field searches shall be arranged, steered and conducted by local teams, ideally involving the local AllSky7 camera owners and operators. We want the local AllSky7 camera owners and operators to be the first ones to find meteorites!
- The local search team is expected to handle possible finds in a professional way. That includes a profound documentation of the site, to avoid contamination of the material (e.g. by testing its magnetism) and to hand it over as quick as possible to the designated institution for scientific analysis.
- The local team may involve further local helpers in their search activities, but every individual helper has to accept the terms & conditions of the AllSky7 Meteorite Working Group in advance. For example, every helper has to keep all information confidential and share 30% of the finds with the AllSky7 community. How the 70% are handled is to be decided by the local team on its own.
- AllSky7 network members from abroad may support the search, but they must coordinate with the local search team.

- Scientific analysis of the meteoritic material is preferably conducted by local research organization or institutes, that have the necessary equipment and expertise.
- Collection efforts are always properly and legally conducted: no trespassing, stealing from landowners, misrepresenting information and geo-location, and other misbehavior.

The Meteorite Working Group can decide on all aspects of individual meteorite falls including exceptions from these terms. If a meteorite finder wants to present 100% of the material to some scientific institution, for example, the working group can decide to abstain from the 30% AllSky7 network share.

Any case or open point that is not covered by these terms, will also be decided by the working group.

Decisions in the working group are taken by majority vote. As founder and progenitor of the AllSky7 network, Mike Hankey has a veto right on all decisions.

6. Publications Principles

Ideally, the academic effort around the meteorite fall and scientific publications are led by local research institutions and universities, but conducted as a consortium with the AllSky7 Meteorite Working Group. Credits shall be given to the AllSky7 core team, to AllSky7 camera operators that recorded the event, to the meteorite finder and to everyone involved in the calculation of the trajectory, orbit and strewnfield, and in the analysis of the meteoritic material.

7. Leaving the Working Group

A working group member can leave the working group at any time, and without the need to give reasons, by sending an e-mail to consent-mwg@allsky7.groups.io and expressing his wish.

Former working group members remain to be bound to the terms & conditions for all meteorite-dropping fireballs and meteoritic events that have been discussed while they were members of the working group. That is, the member is not allowed to share or publish any information gained in the working group, and all meteoritic material collected from the discussed events are shared with the AllSky7 community as agreed herein.

If a working group participant does not comply with the terms and conditions or is not willing to accept changes to these, he can be excluded from the working group. That is equivalent to leaving the working group, with the same obligations.

8. Liability

Any participation and activity in the meteorite working group is voluntary and non-chargeable. Fairness and trust are core principles of our co-operation, but there is no entitlement, nor any liability for the correctness of data and information shared in the working group.

9. Separability Clause

Substantive changes to the terms and conditions have to be confirmed by every working group member explicitly by e-mail to consent-mwg@allsky7.groups.io to become effective. If only parts of the terms and conditions change, all other regulations remain valid until the member has declared to leave the working group.

10. Change History

Version	Date	Change
0.1	2021-11-06	First draft from Mike Hankey and Sirko Molau
0.2	2021-11-10	Introducing some feedback of Detlef Koschny
0.3	2011-11-11	Introducing feedback from participants in AS7 Regular's Corner
0.4	2021-11-24	Introducing feedback of Dieter Heinlein
1.0	2021-11-28	Removing some typos