



# TWENTY-SIXTH MEETING OF THE AFRICAN - INDIAN OCEAN REGIONAL PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION GROUP (APIRG26)



**Cotonou, Benin, 6 – 10 November 2023**



## WP/03B5

### **Status of AMBEX implementation at ASECNA**

- Agenda item 03: Implementation of air navigation objectives, targets and indicators, including priorities set out in the regional air navigation plan

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**BAKITA**

# 1. INTRODUCTION

**AMBEX system established by APIRG/11 and implemented on August 29, 1986 for the exchange of required OPMET information.**

➔ **Introduction of IWXXM as an international standard format for the exchange of weather information Beginning of the transition in a digital environment, in support of GANP Transition to SWIM**

➔ **Exchange of weather information according to the IWXXM model in force in 2020 through Amendment No. 79 to ICAO Annex 3.**

## 2. ANALYSIS

### ➔ Exchange of OPMET in alphanumeric format at ASECNA

#### ➤ BRDO Dakar:

- in replacement.
- OPMET exchange in analog format only with BRDO Pretoria via Johannesburg.
- Prolonged unavailability of the DKR – JNB link which is a serious handicap for data exchange and synchronization between the two BRDO of the region.

➤ METAR and TAF exchange procedures: relatively low availability rates at some aerodromes for ASECNA BCOs. Focus on the stations concerned in order to identify the real causes of this unavailability and to look for the appropriate solutions.

➤ AMBEX standardizes OPMET exchanges from BCC, BRDO, IROG, ROC, etc... but does not propose the collection and transmission of OPMET at the NOC level. This failure does not help national untrained centres to properly route their OPMET.

## 2.

### ANALYSIS

#### ➔ Exchange of OPMET in alphanumeric format at ASECNA (cont'd)

- 3 BCC, 1 BRDO and 10 NOC managed by ASECNA equipped with virtualized SMT switches, responsible among other things for the conversion of OPMET from alphanumeric TAC format to IWXXM 3.0 format and interfaced to the AMHS switch.
- To ensure different OPMET implementations in IWXXM format, perform inter BRDO, inter BCC-BRDO and NOC-BCC tests.
- METAR and TAF availability statistics developed by the BCC of Dakar, Brazzaville and Niamey from January to September 2023: overall, low availability rate (lack of reliable means of communication and trained personnel).

### 3. DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED



**Recurring malfunctions in some centers, causing the unavailability of OPMET (SA/SP and FT/FC): case of erroneous message headers, circuit failures for long periods, lack of qualified staff to deliver messages and lack of coordination, ...**



**Existence of NOCs that do not have an automatic weather and aeronautical message switching system.**



**Several stations required in the AMBEX collectives from non-ASASINAC states still manual collect and transmit irregular bulletins and often full of errors.**

## 4. ACTION REQUIRED

The meeting is invited to:

- a) take note of the information presented
- b) encourage Member States to produce METAR and SPECI in native digital format from aerodrome weather stations. In this case, there would be no more conversion but only routing.
- c) facilitate coordination meetings between:
  - BCC AFI and BRDO AFI;
  - BRDO AFI and ROC de Toulouse;
  - BRDO Dakar and IROG/Brasilia.
- d) propose to:
  - Plan OPMET exchange tests in IWXXM 3.0 format;
  - Diligently update the AMBEX Manual to reflect the expanded digital data exchange to the NOC.

# Thank you for your attention

