

SADISOPSG-Memo/75
26/9/11

MEMORANDUM

Ref.: SWG 5/1.4.1

To: Members, Satellite Distribution System Operations Group (SADISOPSG)
From: SADISOPSG Secretary
Subject: **Interim progress report related to SADISOPSG Conclusion 16/23 a) and update of the SADISOPSG/16 Conclusions follow-up table**
Action: To note.

I am pleased to inform you that the SADIS Provider State has provided the attached interim progress report related to SADISOPSG Conclusion 16/23 a). In view of the ongoing work being undertaken to restore the SADIS 2G comparator functionality, a further SADIS Provider State progress report can be expected for review at our next meeting (SADISOPSG/17 scheduled 29 to 31 May 2012, Cairo)

I would also like to draw your attention to an update of the follow-up table concerning Conclusions arising from the SADISOPSG/16 meeting (held 23 to 25 May 2011, Paris), and to remind those concerned about the importance of undertaking the follow-up action(s) as indicated. The latest follow-up table of the SADISOPSG/16 meeting, including the outstanding items, can be found on the SADISOPSG website via URL: www.icao.int/anb/sadisopsg (Click 'Meetings' then SADISOPSG/16 'Follow-up table').

Best regards,

(signed by)
Greg Brock

INTERIM PROGRESS REPORT ON THE STATUS OF THE SADIS 2G COMPARATOR FUNCTIONALITY – FOLLOW-UP OF SADISOPSG CONCLUSION 16/23a)

BACKGROUND:

At the Fourteenth Meeting of the SADIS Operations Group (SADISOPSG/14 held 15 to 17 July 2009, Bangkok), the group endorsed, as part of Conclusion 14/23, the purchasing of a 'splitter' cable in order to allow the configuration of the SADIS 2G MegaPACs (routers) to be modified such that it would send a duplicate of the data feeds destined for the SADIS 2G satellite uplink facility at Whitehill to the SADIS Comparator PC at the United Kingdom Met Office in Exeter. This was to allow the SADIS Comparator PC to function as originally intended in a fully automated manner.

Owing to several Comparator PC issues, configuration changes to the SADIS MegaPACs were not implemented until December 2010 for GRIB and T4 permanent virtual circuits (PVCs), and not until mid-January 2011 for the OPMET data supplied by the United Kingdom National Air Traffic Service (NATS) (the SADIS Gateway for OPMET). The implementation of the latter caused significant technical problems, and in order to restore a reliable service the configurations were reverted.

Since then, several attempts have been made to determine the reasons for the system not functioning as intended. To prevent risks to the operational service, attempts to replicate the delivery over parallel test systems have been attempted, but so far to no success.

At the Sixteenth Meeting of the SADIS Operation Group (SADISOPSG/16 held 23 to 25 May 2011, Paris) the SADIS Provider State reported that the Comparator was still not in a fully functioning state due to the unavailability of the 'duplicated feeds'. This interim progress report is provided as follow-up to SADISOPSG Conclusion 16/23 a).

CURRENT STATUS:

Despite several concerted attempts and a number of teleconferences, it is still not possible to feed OPMET data from the SADIS Gateway into the test MegaPACs at Exeter.

At the most recent technical liaison meeting between UK NATS, the UK Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) and the UK Met Office (held 13 September 2011) it was determined that the next steps would be to convene physical presence meetings at the Exeter-based headquarters of the UK Met Office. The aim of this meeting would be to either a) finally resolve the problems affecting the planned implementation of the SADIS 2G comparator; or b) determine an alternative methodology whereby a duplicate feed of data could be fed in real time to the Comparator PC.

FUTURE ACTIONS:

- 1) A meeting to be convened at the Exeter Headquarters of the UK Met Office by the end of November 2011;
- 2) Either a solution to the problems of the planned design will be found, or an acceptable alternative to that design will be determined;
- 3) All efforts will be made by the UK Met Office and NATS – as owners and providers of the essential systems that comprise the SADIS 2G ground segment – to implement satisfactory duplicate feeds of data disseminated to the satellite by end January 2012; and
- 4) Report on progress and status at the Seventeenth Meeting of the SADIS Operations Group (SADISOPSG/17, scheduled 29 to 31 May 2012, Cairo).

Mr. C. Tyson (SADIS Manager, UK Met Office on behalf of the SADIS Provider State)
26 September 2011

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