

FIFTEENTH MEETING

SADIS OPERATIONS GROUP (Paris, France, 26 to 28 May 2010)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY¹

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The fifteenth meeting of the SADIS Operations Group (SADISOPSG/15) was held at the European/North Atlantic (EUR/NAT) Regional Office, Paris, 26 to 28 May 2010. The meeting was attended by 17 participants from 8 States (including the representative of the focal point of the EUR OPMET Bulletin Management Group (BMG)) and two international organizations (Agency for Air Navigation Safety in Africa and Madagascar (ASECNA) and the International Air Transport Association (IATA)).

1.2 The Chairman, Dr. Th. L. van Stijn (Netherlands), presided over the meeting throughout its duration.

2. FOLLOW-UP OF SADISOPSG/14 CONCLUSIONS

2.1 With regard to the follow-up of the SADISOPSG/14 conclusions, the group noted that action had been completed on all the issues (Decision 15/1).

3. OPERATION OF THE SADIS

3.1 With regard to the list of SADIS operational focal points, the group concurred that it provided useful contacts for the SADIS Provider State and the ICAO Regional Offices to resolve operational issues, and agreed that ICAO should update the list in time for the dispatch of the SADIS efficacy questionnaire in December 2010 (Conclusion 15/2).

3.2 The group reviewed the operation of SADIS during 2009/2010 based on the annual management report from the SADIS Provider State and on responses from fifty-seven States to the annual questionnaire on the operational efficacy of the SADIS broadcast. Concerning the annual questionnaire, the group was pleased to note the positive developments that had taken place, in particular States' increased capacity of producing compliant SIGWX charts from the BUFR-coded world area forecast system (WAFS) forecasts and the improved availability of operational meteorological (OPMET) messages via the SADIS 2G broadcast. The group agreed that the format of the questionnaire was up-to-date and that no major changes were required (Decision 15/3). The group also agreed that the SADIS broadcast continued to meet the operational requirements during the period under review and that the SADIS Cost Recovery Administrative Group (SCRAG) be informed accordingly (Conclusion 15/4).

3.3 The group reviewed the SADIS inventory for 2010/2011. In order to ensure that SADIS continued to meet the approved operational requirements, amendments to the inventory were made based

¹The full report is available at the following website: www.icao.int/anb/sadisopsg

on proposals by the SADIS Provider State. The updated inventory would be forwarded to the Chairman of SCRAG (Conclusion 15/5).

4. CONTENT OF THE SADIS BROADCAST

4.1 OPMET information

4.1.1 Regarding the recurrent requests for the modifications of TAF requirements from the AOP aerodromes, it was recalled that such requests should be addressed to the ICAO regional office concerned, since the provision of TAF was subject to formal RAN agreement. Meanwhile, the group reviewed and endorsed the proposals made by IATA concerning OPMET information from non-AOP aerodromes and tasked the Secretariat to modify the requirements, subject to States' concurrence (Conclusion 15/6).

4.1.2 In view of fostering the availability of the Nuclear Emergency Message for aviation users, the group agreed that this message should be included in the SADIS broadcast and SADIS FTP Service, in time for the applicability of Amendment 75 to Annex 3 (Conclusion 15/7).

4.2 WAFS forecasts

4.2.1 With regard to Annex 4 to the SADIS User Guide (SUG), listing the WAFS forecasts included in the SADIS broadcast, the group noted that it was up-to-date and that no amendments were required.

5. DEVELOPMENT OF THE SADIS

5.1 Report of the SADISOPSG Gateway Development Team

5.1.1 Based on the results of a 14-day analysis undertaken early 2010, it transpired that the compliance with the SIGMET format had remained insufficient, in particular in India and the NAM Region, to trigger the automatic validation at the SADIS gateway. The group agreed that the States concerned should be reminded of the importance of the correct format of SIGMET (Conclusion 15/8).

5.1.2 The group endorsed the efforts to complete the harmonization of the SADIS and ISCS broadcasts based on Annex 1 to the SUG, as far as the content of OPMET information is concerned (Conclusion 15/9).

5.2 Report of the SADISOPSG Strategic Assessment Team

5.2.1 Based on a report provided by the Rapporteur of the SADISOPSG Strategic Assessment Team, the group reviewed the content of the strategic assessment tables and requested that ICAO forward copies of the tables to the PIRGs concerned so that they may form the basis for the next regional update in respect of future SADIS requirements (Conclusion 15/10). The group also agreed that, for information purposes, the SADIS Strategic Assessment Team should provide estimates of future data volumes related to WAFS forecasts in the GRIB1, GRIB2, PNG and BUFR code forms, as an attachment to the SADIS Strategic Assessment Tables (Conclusion 15/11).

5.3 Report of the SADISOPSG Technical Developments Team

5.3.1 The group noted that the issues dealt with by the SADISOPSG Technical Developments Team were related to:

- a) future utilization of the SADIS satellite bandwidth;
- b) transmission of GRIB2 data on the SADIS 2G; and
- c) SADIS 2G uplink protocols.

5.3.2 With regard to the future utilization of the SADIS satellite bandwidth, the group agreed that the existing SADIS 2G data transfer rate of 64 kbps was sufficient for the foreseen needs of the service, including the introduction of GRIB2 transmissions with an appropriate prioritization, and that therefore, the SADIS Provider State should relinquish the currently retained SADIS 1G Satellite bandwidth to save some £30 000 per annum (Conclusion 15/12).

5.3.3 Concerning the GRIB 2 data transmission on the SADIS 2G, the group agreed that to enable workstation vendors to develop and test their systems, the SADIS Provider State should carry out further test transmissions of GRIB2 WAFS data before the operational implementation of the broadcast. (Conclusion 15/13). It was further agreed that the SADIS Provider State should implement the transmission of GRIB2 WAFS forecasts on 18 November 2010, with the following conditions:

- a) transmission of GRIB2 WAFS forecasts will be 1 hour after the transmission of GRIB1 WAFS forecasts; and
- b) trial forecasts for CB clouds, icing and turbulence in the GRIB 2 code form will not be transmitted until endorsed by the WAFSOPSG (Conclusion 15/14).

5.3.4 Concerning the SADIS 2G uplink protocols, the group concluded that it would be disadvantageous to replace the existing X25 Protocol with the IP between Exeter and Whitehill due to the lack of error correction and increased communication overheads related to the use of IP (Decision 15/15). It was also agreed that, with regard to the transmission rate of the links between Exeter and Whitehill, the needs of the SADIS 2G could be met with the current infrastructure (i.e. 64 kbps transmission rates), and there was no need to increase the transmission rate of the satellite broadcast (Decision 15/16).

5.4 SADIS Internet-based FTP Service

5.4.1 With regard to the term to be used for the secure SADIS Internet-based FTP service, the group agree that, in order to prevent any possible confusion relating to the security features used in the SADIS FTP service, that it should be known as “Secure SADIS FTP” (Decision 15/17). Concerning the implementation of the “Secure SADIS FTP”, the group agreed that the SADIS Provider State should use the Digital Signing of files as the methodology for enhancement of security of the data; furthermore, the Chairman of the SADISOPSG would inform the Chairman of the SCRAG of the estimated costs remaining at £67 000 ± £13 000 (Conclusion 15/18).

5.4.2 The group agreed that a registration process be established to ensure that only authorized users were given access to the Secure SADIS FTP service, and that full records be kept by the SADIS Provider State, in order to manage the access to the data delivered by this service (Conclusion 15/19).

6. LONG-TERM PLANNING OF SADIS

6.1.1 The group endorsed the five-year long-term plan for the years 2011 to 2015, based on updates by the SADIS Provider State (Decision 15/20).

6.1.2 With regard to the future of the SADIS 2G satellite broadcast, it was also agreed that SADIS user States and users be consulted on the need for continued satellite distribution of OPMET data beyond 2015 and that the results of the consultation be considered by the SADISOPSG/16 Meeting (Conclusion 15/21). Irrespective of the future of the SADIS 2G, it was concurred that in view of the increasing use of the SADIS FTP, the SADIS Provider State should prepare proposals for contingency arrangements for the Secure SADIS FTP service by the SADISOPSG/16 Meeting. (Conclusion 15/22).

7. THE SADIS USER GUIDE

7.1 The group noted that amendments to the SUG had been made to take into account the introduction of GRIB2 data; the change of issue times of significant weather (SIGWX) medium-level BUFR data and SIGWX PNG charts; and a change to the delivery of these products under back-up. The group endorsed these changes (Decision 15/23).

8. FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME

8.1 The group reviewed and updated the deliverables in its work programme for the years 2010 to 2014 (Decision 15/24).

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

9.1 With regard to the implementation of corrective actions to eliminate data losses in the SADIS 2G transmission, the group concurred that the SADIS Provider State should continue to implement the necessary corrective actions to eliminate data losses in the SADIS 2G transmission process and report progress to the Secretariat by 29 July 2010 (Conclusion 15/25).