



International Civil Aviation Organization

MID ATS Messaging Management Centre Steering Group

Fourth Meeting (MIDAMC STG/4)
(Cairo, Egypt, 18 – 19 March 2019)

Agenda Item 3: AFS Issues

**STATUS OF SITA AMHS GATEWAY INTERCONNECTIONS
AND TRANSITION TO AMHS WITHIN ICAO MID REGION**

(Presented by SITA)

SUMMARY

This Working Paper aims to inform the MIDAMC STG/4 on the progress made in SITA AMHS Gateway inter-connections and transition to AMHS in every ICAO Region. Considering the completion of AMHS tests with Jordan and Lebanon it seeks regional cooperation with the transition manager and AMC for transition to AMHS within MID Region.

Action by the meeting is at paragraph 3.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 This Working Paper presents the abreast of progress made with ICAO Regions on SITA's interconnection to AMHS and invites the meeting to propose appropriate recommendations and agreement related to SITA AMHS transition in MID Region in coordination with AMHS gateway countries, the transition manager and AMC. SITA AMHS transition in MID Region. SITA integration remains a prerequisite prior to any inter-regional AMHS connections.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 The progress status at the time of writing this Working Paper on 10th of March 2019 is as follows: SITA exchanges with all ICAO EUR Region countries are through AMHS active connections with Germany and Switzerland since 2016. Messages between EUR Region AFS and SITA users flow successfully. Initial discussions are taking place to establish a network connection to France and plan for AMHS testing.

2.2 SITA transition to AMHS within APAC Region with WSSS and VTBB has been completed in September 2017 with full cooperation of WSSS, VTBB, all APAC countries and AMC. Messages between APAC Region AFS and SITA users flow successfully.

2.3 AMHS IOT and POT are successfully completed with South Africa. We have transitioned on 9th of April 2018 with all AFI Region nationality codes except FH and FJ. In a future step it is envisaged to establish a second AMHS connection with Dakar COM Center. To this end the draft IOT document is sent to Dakar office to make their appropriate updates and set up in preparations for IP and AMHS testing.

2.4 The POT with Brazil (SBBR) and transition within SAM Region is successfully completed in 2018 and message flows are working well. We are working with Argentina EANA to establish a better resiliency for AMHS traffic in ICAO SAM Region.

2.5 IOT and POT with the United States are completed. Address lists are reviewed and the AMHS Cutover Procedure has been proposed by FAA. All preparations are completed, and the cut over is planned in March for SITA AMHS integration within NAM Region.

2.6 The POT with Jordan and Lebanon are completed mid-2017. To prepare for transition ICAO MID Region CNS officer and transition manager have been actively communicating with other ANSPs in the Region for validation and appropriate set up. Nevertheless, some concerns with NANSC has delayed the transition to AMHS. To facilitate discussions and reach to an agreement a meeting was organized by ICAO MID Region with NANSC, transition manager and SITA representations. Appropriate action items are defined, and an agreement was reached for a tentative transition on the 28th of February which ended up by a fall back. An alternative date on 28th of March is proposed in case of any delay by NANSC to be ready to complete the transition.

2.7 Considering that ICAO EUR/NAT Region is following up the global SITA integration in accordance with ICAO EUR/NAT DOC 035 AMHS/Third Party Interconnection Architecture, an Information Paper was submitted by SITA including an update on the outstanding transition within MID Region and discussed during ICAO EUR/NAT AFSG/23 meeting held in Paris from 5 to 8 March.

2.8 Tunisia also presented a paper during AFSG/23 meeting stating its need for AMHS inter-connection to MID Region still pending SITA transition within MID Region

2.9 ICAO EUR/NAT AFSG Operations Group presented its report in a Working Paper during AFSG/23 meeting and provided an abreast of missed SITA AMHS transition during 28 February AIRAC date and highlighted the need to complete SITA AMHS transition within MID Region.

2.10 ICAO EUR/NAT AFSG/23 Draft Report concluded the following:

- “The AFSG was informed that after long coordination with all MID Region parties involved and under mutual agreement, the SITA AMHS Gateways should have been implemented operationally on the AIRAC date 28 February 2019. However, the AFSG noted with concern that, despite the mentioned agreement, Egypt had not implemented the AMC addresses tables in their systems and then MID AMHS SITA Gateways had to roll back from their implementation due to inconsistent addresses conversions errors. It was noted that the lack of SITA AMHS Gateway into MID Region is an urgent concern that may affect the exchange of ATS messages between EUR and MID as well as inside the respective COM Centers of both Regions. Accordingly, the AFSG requested ICAO EUR/NAT Office to relay the concern to the ICAO MID Office and seek their support to expedite the process of AMC Addresses Tables integration within Egypt in order to allow the SITA AMHS Gateways transition to take place in the MID Region for the next AIRAC date (28th of March 2019).
- The AFSG confirmed that SITA integration is the only solution to connect different AMHS islands and SITA integration is not only a regional issue, it is a Global issue that should be followed and implemented by all Regions.”

2.11 SITA in keen to work closely with the AMHS gateway COM Centers, ICAO regional offices, transition manager and AMC to coordinate the transition to AMHS through the AMHS gateway COM Centers following ICAO EUR/NAT DOC 035.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) note the contents of this Working Paper and provide comments;
- b) agree that AMHS technical transition should not be impacted by bilateral specific issues to avoid any community impact; and
- c) agree on finalization of SITA AMHS transition within MID Region during the AIRAC date 28 March 2019 and provide recommendation accordingly.