



International Civil Aviation Organization

NORTH AMERICAN, CENTRAL AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN OFFICE

**Twenty-Seventh Eastern Caribbean Informal Working Group Meeting
(27TH E/CAR IWG)**

St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda, 21 to 25 July 2003

27TH E/CAR IWG-WP/16

24/06/03

Agenda Item 3: Specific Air Navigation Activities and Developments
3.6 Communications, Navigation and Surveillance (CNS)

STATUS OF E/CAR DIGITAL AFS NETWORK

(Presented by InterCaribbean Aeronautical Communications Limited (IACL))

<p>SUMMARY</p> <p>This Working Paper presents an update on the takeover by Cable & Wireless (West Indies) Limited from TSTT as the Service Provider for the Eastern Caribbean AFS Digital Network.</p>
<p>References:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conclusion 26/11 of the 26th Meeting of the E/CAR IWG• Conclusion 25/11 of the 25th Meeting of the E/CAR IWG• Conclusion 17/4 of the 17th Meeting of the E/CAR IWG

1. Background

1.1 In accordance with Conclusion 26/11 of the 26th E/CAR IWG meeting, IACL's Board of Directors met with the E/CAR DCAs on 25th June 2002 when the Board's decision to contract the services of Cable & Wireless (West Indies) Limited (C&W) to implement and manage the Eastern Caribbean AFS Digital Network and the En-route Aeronautical Mobile Service was conveyed. Justification for the Board's decision arose out of evaluation of proposals from two (2) provider agencies that were previously circulated among the E/CAR DCAs. The outcome of that meeting was communicated to ICAO.

2. Separation from TSTT

2.1 Despite legal ramifications, Telecommunications Services of Trinidad & Tobago (TSTT) was prepared to part ways with IACL provided agreement was reached regarding settlement for services already delivered. Being dissatisfied with the poor performance of the network, IACL had withheld a substantial portion of the proposed monthly payments. The resolution of this impasse was an important prerequisite to C&W taking over the network. After several months of negotiations, agreement on the issue was reached with TSTT and the transition of management to C & W started with a time line that will take the process to end of August 2003.

3. Change of Network Platform

3.1 C & W completed an audit and review of the present network and have concluded that they can best serve the E/CAR requirements by employing Frame Relay Technology which forms the backbone of their international networks and which can be effectively managed from the Network Management Centre in Barbados. The flexibility of Frame Relay allows the transport of voice and other transmission protocols over the network.

3.2 The present E/CAR Digital AFS network uses ISDN technology and while C & W will accept the network in its present state and continue to maintain its operation they will be working assiduously to convert the system to Frame Relay in the shortest possible time. They will however continue to maintain the specific X.25 protocol between the E/CAR and NADIN and also ISDN Voice links out of San Juan until such time the FAA decides to change. C&W and the FAA will work together on all issues that arise out of these changes.

3.3 As Frame Relay is basically a transport mechanism for getting digital data from one point to another, ATS units will continue to use the same PBXs, Voice Switches and AFTN terminals that are presently used on the network. It should not impact on the Radar Data Sharing proposals for the region nor prevent the use of X.25 connectivity between the present AFTN message switch and the terminals across the network.

4. Transition Timeline

4.1 The transition of network ownership and management to Cable & Wireless (West Indies) Limited is scheduled to be completed by August 2003. During the transition period C& W will submit a revised draft contract and service level agreement (SLA) which will be circulated among E/CAR DCAs and the FAA for comments. During this period TSTT shall continue to respond to all faults that occur on the Network and where practical seek the assistance of C&W personnel.

5. Suggested Action

5.1 The meeting is invited to comment on the takeover process of the E/CAR AFS Digital Network by Cable & Wireless (West Indies) Limited and the proposed change in technology.