



International Civil Aviation Organization

**Seventh Meeting of CNS/MET Sub-Group of APANPIRG and
Tenth Meeting of CNS/ATM IC Sub-Group of APANPIRG**

Bangkok, Thailand, 15 – 21 July 2003

Agenda Item 9: Exchange of OPMET Information

U.S. OPMET DATA BANK REQUEST – REPLY SERVICE

(Presented by United States of America)

SUMMARY

This paper summarizes proposed changes to the NWS OPMET Request - Reply service.

1. Background

1.1 In 1983, the National Weather Service (NWS) of the United States established a Request-Reply service to allow States to access to its OPMET Data Bank to support international air navigation. The purpose of this service was to provide operational meteorological data to the Meteorological Services of ICAO member states. Access to the Washington OPMET Data Bank was made via the Aeronautical Fixed Telecommunication Network (AFTN). Data requests to the OPMET Data Bank were accepted only from one originator in each designated State; however, the requested information could be sent to more than one addressee in the same State.

2. Planned changes for Request - Reply Service

2.1 With the recent advances in telecommunication technology the U.S. believes there are better means to provide OPMET information to States in support of operations. The NWS/FAA are looking toward the use of the Internet to provide the same quality of service.

2.2 The U.S. National Weather Service (NWS) is in the process of making significant operational changes to its National Weather Service Telecommunication Gateway. The new telecommunications gateway will not support the current request-reply service. NWS is planning to complete these changes within the next 2 years. In addition to providing OPMET data on the WAFS satellite broadcast over the International Satellite Communications System, the U.S. will make OPMET data available through a File Transfer Protocol (FTP) server or Hypertext Transfer Protocol (http) via the Internet. This new more robust method of providing OPMET data, available to States today, will replace the current Request-Reply feature of the OPMET Data Bank. It is expected to satisfy the growing number of requests for more accurate and timely information. It will take advantage of the new telecommunication technology that is not available on AFTN.

2.2.1 Further, it is the U.S. understanding that ICAO is in the process of establishing a study group to recommend to the Secretary a set of guidelines on the aviation use of the public Internet as a means of ground-ground communication for collection, organization, dissemination and

exchange of various categories of aeronautical data. The U.S. will be participating in this study group to help support the use of the Internet.

2.3 It is the intent of the U.S. to work cooperatively with ICAO and other member States to develop a policy to promote the use of the Internet to improve the exchange of aviation products and information via request-reply services.

2.4 The new NWS telecommunications gateway is scheduled to become operation between July and September of 2005. The Request-Reply service will no longer be available once the new gateway is operational. At that time users will need to obtain OPMET data not received on the ISCS broadcast via FTP or HTTP.

2.5 As stated earlier, OPMET data is available today using FTP or HTTP via the Internet. All NWS data and products are stored for FTP access. The directory and file structure follows a common subdirectory and file naming standard. The Universal Resource Locators (URLs) listed below will take the user to a more detailed explanation of how to retrieve data via FTP and HTTP.

<http://weather.gov/tg/dataproduct.html>

<http://weather.gov/tg/anonymous.html>

3. Conclusion

3.1 The Meeting is invited to note the information provided on upcoming changes to the OPMET Data Bank.

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