



International Civil Aviation Organization

NORTH AMERICAN, CENTRAL AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN OFFICE

Twenty-Ninth Eastern Caribbean Working Group Meeting (29 E/CAR WG)

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, 9 to 13 May 2005

29 E/CAR WG – WP/23

03/05/05

Agenda Item 3

Specific Air Navigation Activities and Developments

3.6 Communications, Navigation and Surveillance (CNS)

AERONAUTICAL FIXED TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORK (AFTN)

(Presented by Trinidad and Tobago)

SUMMARY

This working paper advises the E/CAR WG of the progress thus far by Trinidad and Tobago with regards to the resolution Of the CNS AFTN deficiencies within the E/CAR.

References:

- Summary of Discussions and Conclusions 28th Eastern Caribbean Informal Working Group Meeting, Montserrat, 2004
- Summary of Discussions and Conclusions 27th Eastern Caribbean Informal Working Group Meeting, Antigua, 2003
- 26th E/CAR IWG Conclusion 26/8 and 26/9
- 25th E/CAR IWG Conclusion 25/14
- ATM/CNS/SG/1 California, July 2001, on CNS shortcomings and deficiencies in the CAR/SAM Region
- E/CAR ATM/CNS Transition Plan

1. Introduction

1.1 The following is reiterated for the benefit of the Meeting.

1.1.1 In keeping with the E/CAR ATM/CNS Transition Plan for improved and increased AFTN system functionalities with technologically advanced connectivity protocols, Trinidad and Tobago is committed to fulfilling its responsibilities for the Aeronautical Information Service (AIS) as the International NOTAM Office (NOF) within the Piarco Flight Information Region (FIR), the French Territories and two stations of the British Virgin Islands outside the Piarco FIR and as the appointed and mandated AFTN Switching Centre within the Piarco FIR including the French Territories.

1.1.2 Towards this goal, open tenders for the design, supply, installation and commissioning of an Automatic Message Switching System (AMSS) for Aeronautical Fixed Telecommunications Network (AFTN) with Automatic Message Handling System (AMHS) gateway services, complete with ATN connectivity and NOTAM database processing package were issued by the ICAO Technical Corporation Bureau on behalf of Trinidad and Tobago and a contract was signed in December 2003 with the successful tenderer, Thales Information Systems, France.

2. Discussion

2.1 Trinidad and Tobago, with responsibility for NOTAM and AFTN services within the Piarco FIR, French Territories and two stations outside the FIR is committed to the provision of up to date and expanded capabilities via the AFTN in keeping with the Air Navigation Plan.

2.2 Following up on the report made to the 28th E/CAR/WG via WP 16, it would be recalled that the expected project completion was scheduled for the last quarter of 2004

2.3 The equipment was shipped to Trinidad after Factory Operator and Technical training and successful completion of Factory Acceptance Tests (FAT) in June - July 2004.

2.4 The installation continued on scheduled and after on-site Operator and Technical training and successful Site Acceptance Tests (SAT) in September – October 2004, the Operational Readiness Phase commenced. During this phase the equipment is used by the AIS as the primary system to switch live traffic and process NOTAMS and its performance is evaluated against the technical specifications tendered.

2.5 We are pleased to report that the equipment has been functioning to satisfaction with minor teething problems.

2.6 The Final Site Acceptance Tests (FSAT) is scheduled for 23-27 May, 2005. Upon successful completion of the FSAT, the equipment will be formally handed over to the TTCAA and commissioned.

3. Conclusion

3.1 Trinidad and Tobago has fulfilled its obligations in a timely manner in the provision of safe and reliable AFTN service within the E/CAR.

3.2 This project was implemented within budget and on schedule and was successful by any standards. Trinidad and Tobago wishes to thank the member States of the E/CAR and the French Territories for their cooperation in facilitating a smooth transition from the old AFTN to the new Thales AFTN.

4. Suggested action

4.1 The meeting is invited to take note of the information presented in this Working Paper.