



INFORMATION PAPER

MEETING OF THE METEOROLOGY PANEL (METP) WORKING GROUP MOG

FIRST MEETING

Gatwick, London, United Kingdom, 8 to 11 September 2015

Agenda Item 3: Matters relating to SADIS

3.3: Operation of SADIS – for cost recovery purposes

CESSATION OF THE SADIS 2G SERVICE – 31 JULY 2016

(Presented by the SADIS Provider State)

SUMMARY

This information paper is to apprise the group of background in relation to the cessation of the SADIS 2G service on 31 July 2016.
Action by the METP-WG/MOG is in paragraph 5.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The group will be aware of the decision by the SADISOPSG, endorsed by Recommendation 1/1 of the Meteorological Panel (METP/1, 20-24 April 2015, Montréal, Canada) in relation to the cessation of the SADIS 2G service on 31 July 2016.

1.2 This information paper is to apprise the group of background to this decision.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 The group will be aware that the SADISOPSG/18¹ meeting originally considered options for the cessation, extension, and enhancement of the SADIS 2G service. *At that time* it was recommended that the SADIS 2G service would not be enhanced, and that it would be extended to November 2019.

2.2 It was also considered that this recommendation was sufficiently important that it should be ratified and endorsed (or modified) by the ICAO Meteorology Divisional Meeting (MET/14²) then expected to be held in July 2014.

¹ SADISOPSG/18, Dakar, Senegal, 29 to 31 May 2013

² MET/14, Montréal, Canada, 7 to 18 July 2014, held in part conjointly with the Fifteenth Session of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Commission for Aeronautical Meteorology (CAeM-XV)

2.3 The MET/14 modified the recommendation to read that the SADIS 2G service should be extended beyond 2015, but not beyond November 2019.

2.4 *It was unknown at the time* of SADISOPSG/18, or indeed MET/14, that the satellite used to provide the SADIS 2G service was due to be withdrawn by the operator (Intelsat), and that it would not be possible to use the existing SADIS 2G downlink parameters (frequency, polarization etc) beyond 31 July 2016.

2.5 This resulted in only two possible alternatives. Either the SADIS 2G should be terminated on 31 July 2016 and all users advised to migrate to the Secure SADIS FTP service by that date; or a transition project would need to be initiated to test and transition to new downlink frequencies. The latter option would result in significant extra expense and, noting that satellite based services would not be extended beyond November 2019, was considered not to show an adequate return on investment due to the low numbers of potential users.

2.6 The SADIS Provider undertook to understand the reasons for non-availability of the existing downlink parameters after the 31 July 2016, and explored all practicable alternatives. When it became apparent that there was no possibility of extending the service on existing downlink parameters beyond 31 July 2016, the SADIS Provider State informed ICAO (24 October 2014).

2.7 The SADIS Provider undertook a review of the risks and benefits of the two options, and also obtained cost estimates. This review was provided to the SADISOPSG Secretary, who in turn issued SADISOPSG Memo 97³ advising all members of the developments. A telecon was arranged to permit all SADISOPSG Members to discuss the matter (25 November 2014).

2.8 The SADISOPSG decision to cease the satellite based service on 31 July 2016 was reviewed and endorsed by the METP (20-24 April 2015).

2.9 The Secure SADIS FTP service will continue, and is unaffected by decisions relating to the future of SADIS 2G.

3. SUBSEQUENT ACTIONS

3.1 Subsequent to the decision to cease the SADIS 2G service, the SADIS Provider has;

- a) Informed all users by NOUK10 Administrative Message of the decision. The first communication was issued on 26 May 2015. This information will be repeated on a monthly basis.
- b) Updated the SADIS Provider's SADIS webpage⁴ to inform of the cessation of the SADIS 2G service.
- c) Informed the SADIS 2G Integrators of the decision to cease the service, and to thank them for their support and assistance over many years, and their role in making SADIS 2G, and its predecessor SADIS 1G, a success.

³ <http://www.icao.int/safety/meteorology/sadisopsg/Memos/Memo-97.pdf>

⁴ <http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/aviation/sadis>

- d) Included an article in the WAFC London Newsletter, informing readers of the decision to terminate the satellite based service.

3.2 The SADIS Provider will also provide as much advice as possible to SADIS 2G users who need to transition to Secure SADIS FTP. In this regard, the SADIS Provider has submitted a separate Information Paper to this meeting regarding assistance available.

4. **CONCLUSION**

4.1 The SADIS 2G service, and the SADIS 1G service before it, have provided very reliable, cost effective and successful service for two decades.

4.2 For the reasons set out above, it was necessary to consider if it was appropriate, practicable and cost effective to extend the satellite based services beyond 31 July 2016. The considered opinion was that it was not, and that the satellite based service shall therefore cease on that date.

4.3 This Information Paper is therefore to apprise the group and formally record the background to the decision to cease satellite based services (SADIS 2G) at 1200 UTC on 31st July 2016. It is also intended to re-affirm the expected continued future of the Secure SADIS FTP service.

4.4 The group are also asked to note the activities, some ongoing, being undertaken by the SADIS Provider to communicate this decision to all SADIS 2G stakeholders.

5. **ACTION BY THE METP-WG/MOG**

5.1 The meeting is invited to note the information contained in this paper.

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