

International Civil Aviation Organization



ICAO

**Twenty Fourth Meeting of the Communications/
Navigation and Surveillance Sub-group (CNS SG/24) of
APANPIRG**

Web-conference, 30 November – 4 December 2020

Agenda Item 13: CNS related work/projects impacted by COVID-19

CNS RELATED WORK/PROJECTS IMPACTED BY COVID-19

(Presented by India)
Airports Authority of India

SUMMARY

This paper presents the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on CNS related work / projects of Airports Authority of India and also discusses various measures undertaken to limit such impact.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Covid 19 pandemic cases were reported from the beginning of 2020 in various parts of world. India reported its first case in late January 2020 and the Government imposed nationwide lockdown from 22nd March 2020, initially for 21 days which was extended further thereafter.

1.2 Restrictions were imposed on the movement of people and non-essential businesses to prevent the spread of COVID-19. All activities throughout India were severely impacted due to lockdown and subsequent restraints. This impacted various ongoing and planned CNS/ATM projects of Airports Authority of India (AAI).

1.3 The lockdown has been subsequently eased in various stages and project work has picked up.

2. IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON CNS RELATED WORK / PROJECTS

2.1 Impact on CNS Projects due to Covid is different based on the Project stage:

2.1.1 **Projects under planning stage:** Due to Lockdown, there was a delay in formulation/finalization of operational & technical requirement of CNS/ATM Systems initially due to lack of coordination with different stake holders. At a later stage, this issue was addressed by conducting regular Web Conference meetings and coordination through electronic means.

Agenda Item 13

30/11/20 – 04/12/20

2.2.2 **Projects under Tender stage:** There was considerable time delay in Tender invitation evaluation and award of contract initially. However, to expedite the process, AAI made it mandatory to work on e-office file system & subsequently, all the decisions were also made through e-office system. Earlier practice of obtaining approvals, comments and feedback on physical files is totally stopped.

2.2.3 **Projects where Installation & Commissioning was in progress:** Such projects were impacted where Manpower is required to be deployed from Overseas to complete the installation. AAI is coordinating with vendors to depute their Installation team as soon as International flight operations get started. In house projects, where installation and commissioning is to be done by AAI have picked up and in last 03 months, various ILS, DVOR/DME replacement projects have been completed, notably Mumbai ILS 09 replacement project

2.2.4 There are some issues like delay in delivery of items due to restriction in movement from one state to state. AAI is taking special permission from local authorities to move the goods to the installation site to avoid any further delay.

3. ACTIONS TAKEN BY AAI TO MITIGATE IMPACT

3.1 COVID-19 is having a massive impact on CNS works/projects in India. Although complete closure of projects has not happened but there has been considerable delay due to disruption in supply chain. AAI has already done away with physical tendering process since 2012 and moved to an e tendering process for procurement of goods and services including global tenders for CNS/ATM projects. This has helped immensely during COVID 19 outbreak. AAI has taken many steps to moderate this effect. Some of the measures taken are mentioned below:-

3.1.1. India has invoked “**Force Majeure**” clause to all projects and other supply contracts to avoid any financial burden on the vendors.

3.1.2 **Flight Inspection of Radio Navigational and ground visual aids installed at Airports in India:**

During COVID19 Lockdown period since 22/03/2020 in India, Airports Authority of India, Flight inspection Unit carried out the flight inspection of radio navigational and ground aids installed at Airports in India seeking the aircraft permission from MOCA (Ministry of Civil Aviation), DGCA (India Regulator) and to protect crew from quarantine from state Govt. administration. AAI followed the Govt. guidelines of COVID 19 during the flight operation for the safety of FIU crew. During lockdown wef 22/03/2020 upto 31st August 2020, Flight inspection of 37 ILS, 11 DVOR, 15 DME and 74 ground Visual Aids (PAPI) were carried out.

3.1.3 Assessment of services that can be continued off-site to limit schedule delays and minimize health and safety risks

- ✓ Conduct of Pre-bid meeting through video conferencing
- ✓ Kick off meeting after award of PO through video conferencing
- ✓ Proposal under consideration of conducting **Factory acceptance test** & factory training through video conferencing
- ✓ Bid/tender clarifications through e-mail in addition to CPP Portal.
- ✓ Keeping in view difficulties faced by vendor, flexibility in submission of tender.
- ✓ Sanitize / cooling period for overseas delivery.
- ✓ Working closely with vendors to identify & implement measures for effective project management and quick resolution of disputes, if any.

- ✓ Prioritize project tasks.
- ✓ Finding ways to improve funds and liquidity, ensure timely payment to vendors.
- ✓ Review & proactive follow up
- ✓ As per Government of India policy, price preference is being given to vendors who are sourcing more than 50 percent of Supplies & Services from India which will result in less Manpower requirement from Overseas.
- ✓ Overseas bidders are encouraged to have MOU & Joint Venture with Indian Manufacturer to get price preference over other Overseas suppliers.

3.1.4 With the above measures in place, the pace of CNS/ATM projects and other procurements has picked up.

4. ACTION BY THE MEETING

4.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) note the information contained in this paper; and
- b) discuss any relevant matter as appropriate
