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*International Civil Aviation Organization***Thirteenth Meeting of the Common aeRonautical Virtual Private Network Operations Group (CRV OG/13)***Wellington, New Zealand, 05-08 March 2025*

Agenda Item 13: Using the rest of CRV Pioneer State Contribution to the ICAO Managed Service Agreement (MSA)

**UPDATES ON CRV PIONEER STATES' REMAINING CONTRIBUTION TO
THE ICAO MANAGED SERVICE AGREEMENT (MSA)**

(Presented by the Secretariat)

SUMMARY

This paper presents an update on the recent development of using the balance fund of the MSA.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In the CNS SG/21 meeting held from 17 to 21 July 2017, on behalf of Fiji, Hong Kong China, New Zealand, USA, and the ICAO Secretariat, USA presented WP/17 to propose a recommendation to the Meeting to manage the remaining funds not used for the CRV selection process. The Meeting endorsed Draft Conclusion CNS SG/21-DC6: Amendment of the Management Service Agreement for CRV project (RAS14801) for APANPIRG/28 adoption.

1.2 The APANPIRG/28 meeting held from 11 to 14 September 2017 adopted the *Conclusion APANPIRG/28/19: Amendment of the Management Service Agreement for CRV project (RAS14801)*. The CRV OG and concerned States/Administrations have taken various follow-up actions for the Conclusion APANPIRG/28/19. However, the Conclusion was one of the outstanding Conclusions up to APANPIRG/33 held in November 2022.

1.3 The CRV OG/9 meeting held from 25-27 January 2022 prepared and adopted the *Revised Annex 1 to Management Service Agreement (MSA)* to utilize in the remaining fund in 5 years starting from the actual date of adoption of the revised document by APANPIRG, which was adopted as **Conclusion APANPIRG/33/6** (CNS SG/26/01).

1.4 The Eleventh Meeting of the Aeronautical Communication Services (ACS) Implementation Coordination Group (ACSICG/11) was held at the ICAO APAC Regional Office, Bangkok, Thailand, from 19 to 22 March 2024. The Meeting was attended by 82 participants from 20 States/Administrations, 2 International Organizations, and 1 industry partner. The ACSICG/11 meeting report, working papers, information papers, and other resources can be accessed by the following link:
<https://www.icao.int/APAC/Meetings/Pages/2024-ACSICG11.aspx>

1.5 The Twelfth Meeting of the Common aeRonautical Virtual Private Network Operations Group of APANPIRG (CRV OG/12) was held from 23 to 26 January 2024 in Denarau Island, Fiji. The Meeting was attended by 66 participants from 18 Member States/Administrations and 1

telecommunication provider. The meeting report, working papers, information papers, and other resources can be accessed by the following link: <https://www.icao.int/APAC/Meetings/Pages/2024-CRV-Seminar-and-CRV-OG-12.aspx>

1.6 This paper summarizes the recent development of utilizing the remaining funds of the CRV project and invites the Meeting to take follow-up actions.

2. DISCUSSION

A brief history- Revised Amendment of the Management Service Agreement for CRV project (RAS14801)

2.1 The eighteen CRV Pioneer States/Administrations (Australia, China, Hong Kong China, Macao China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Fiji, France, India, Japan, Malaysia, Myanmar, New Zealand, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and USA) established Management Service Agreement (MSA) with ICAO Technical Cooperation Bureau (TCB) to select a common service provider for telecommunication service in the region in 2014. As a result, a common service provider was selected.

2.2 After the selection of the common service provider in 2016, a fund balance of USD 104,596 remained as of 31 March 2017. To better utilize the rest of their initial contribution to continue to support CRV implementation, the APANPIRG/28 meeting adopted the *Conclusion APANPIRG/28/19 - Amendment of the Management Service Agreement for CRV project (RAS14801)*.

2.3 As of today, the remaining funds for use were approximately **USD 88,000** (total of all remaining contributions from sixteen Pioneer States/Administrations) after refunding the remaining fund balance share to one pioneer State/Administration on request and excluding the contribution of a Pioneer State for which a direct CRV connection is not considered feasible in 2017 by the selected vendor.

2.4 The approved amended Project Document by the Conclusion APANPIRG/28/19 was not sent for the signing of pioneer member states. However, most pioneer states expressed their interest in continuing the fund for CRV in various CRV OG meetings held afterward. Moreover, some approved amended Project Document clauses required modifications in 2021.

2.5 The revised amended Project Document, also known as the *revised Annex 1 to the Management Service Agreement (MSA)*, was prepared and approved by the CRV OG/9 meeting. To get the formal consent from the Pioneer States/Administration to utilize the remaining fund for the CRV as proposed by the CRV OG/9 (2022), the Revised Amendment of the Management Service Agreement for CRV project (RAS14801) was further endorsed by ACSICG/9, CNS SG/26 and APANPIRG/33 as Conclusion APANPIRG/33/6 (CNS SG/26/01), which superseded the outstanding Conclusion APANPIRG/28/19: Amendment of the Management Service Agreement for CRV project (RAS14801). As per *Revised Annex 1 to the Management Service Agreement (MSA)*, the fund will be utilized for 5 years starting from the actual date of adoption of the revised document by APANPIRG.

2.6 As such, ICAO Secretariat issued State Letter Ref.: T 8/2.15 –AP-CNS 00xx/23 dated 9 January 2023 and Ref.: T 8/2.15 – AP-CNS 0026/23 dated 17 January 2023 on the subject: - Revised Amendment of the Management Service Agreement for the CRV project (RAS14801) to Countersign the Revised amended Project Document or inform the intention to receive the share of the remaining fund balance to 16 pioneer States. Additional clarifications were issued on 17 January 2023. In response, 16 Member States countersigned or shared confirmation to countersign the revised amended Project Document to provide consent to utilize the remaining funds for the CRV.

2.7 The CRV OG/11 Meeting held from 1 to 3 February 2023 agreed that after finalizing the Terms of Reference for the approved task and estimated cost if the remaining amount is too low to utilize for agreed tasks, CRV OG may deliberate and decide on additional cost-sharing arrangements. Additionally, if it is agreed that the remaining amount is too low for approved work and there is no consensus for the remaining cost-sharing arrangement, the remaining share to all 16 pioneer States/Administrations will be refunded.

Using the remaining funds for a Safety Assessment of the CRV network and its ToR

2.8 Discussion at previous CRV OG Meetings suggested that the remaining funds from the CRV Project could be used to facilitate a Safety Assessment of the CRV network. It was assumed that the Safety Assessment means a Cyber Security Review. In CRV OG/11, New Zealand presented Safety Assessment options for the CRV using the remaining money. The six possible Security Review options were provided to be considered by the CRV OG/11 meeting.

2.9 The CRV OG/11 meeting (1 to 3 February 2023) deliberated on various proposed options and agreed to adopt Option 2 - Penetration test of the PCCWG implementation only and Option 5 - Engage a Security consultant to review the Common Package, RFP documentation including the response, Implementation Plan and the Operations Manual and provide a Security recommendation based on this review, which was further adopted by ACSICG/10 as *Conclusion ACSICG/10/02 (CRV OG/11/03) – Selection of Security Review Options 2 and 5 and Develop a ToR*, for utilization of remaining money from CRV Project.

2.10 As a way forward, CRV OG/11(2023) agreed that a draft ToR will be prepared by CRV OG Ad-hoc Expert Group and submitted to the ACSICG/10 Meeting for review and approval. After the ACSICG/10 Meeting approves ToR, quotations will be requested from various cyber security expert agencies and appraised cost with a tentative plan and timelines for its accomplishment will be presented to the CRV OG/12 Meeting for agreement on the scope of work and the final decision for utilization of fund for agreed ToR. After the approval of CRV OG/12, an agency will be selected, and the chosen agency will execute the task.

2.11 Later on, the draft ToR for Security Review using Options 2 and/or 5 was prepared by the CRV OG Ad-hoc Expert Group, which was shared with the CRV OG/11 delegates for their review and feedback on 25 April 2023. The draft ToR was reviewed by the ACSICG/10 Meeting and endorsed as *Conclusion ACSICG/10/03 – Adoption of ToR for CRV Security Review using Options 2 and/or 5*.

2.12 Based on the adopted ToR, CRV OG Ad-hoc Expert Group invited quotations from different vendors to prepare cost estimates for the work. In the CRV OG/12 Meeting (2024), the CRV OG Co-chair (Asia) presented an update on the proposed Cyber Security Review. The Meeting noted that the two cybersecurity organizations specializing in cybersecurity, namely Aura Cyber Security Consultant - IT Risk Assessment - New Zealand and ZX Security Full Spectrum Security Services - ZX Security, had provided quotations.

2.13 The Meeting discussed the option to split the task between two vendors, which provided the lowest quotation for each task. It was informed that two quotes for two tasks were requested individually. Therefore, CRV OG may issue work orders for two tasks to two vendors. The Meeting observed that the amount available with CRV OG in the custody of ICAO CDI (formerly TCB) is USD 88,000, while CRV Security Review using Options 2 and 5 would cost nearly USD 20,000. Therefore, the amount is sufficient to execute the task. The Meeting discussed the way forward for generating two work orders for two tasks to Aura and ZX Security and requested the ICAO Secretariat to suggest the process to transfer money to Aura and ZX Security for assigned tasks if agreed to be appointed by the Meeting in the future.

2.14 The ICAO Secretariat informed that it has coordinated with ICAO HQ CDI to share the formal process of transferring the 16 pioneer states' money to the third-party supplier. It was also informed to HQ that all 16 pioneer States would follow the standard procedure to request ICAO CDI to transfer the funds to the third party approved by CRV OG for the CRV security assessment task. In response, CDI has informed that they understand the request. However, this could be seen as a way to use funds from an ICAO project to solo-source, thus circumventing ICAO regulations on procuring goods and services. ICAO CDI cannot proceed this way, and the funds must agree with ICAO provisions, as described in the MSA/Project Document. ICAO CDI suggested that as it is a Regional project, the best way to do this would be for the CRV OG to take the resolution to close the project, conclude that all objectives have been reached within this project, and advise the project management of ICAO APAC Regional Office. Then, the ICAO APAC Regional Office can request ICAO CDI to proceed to the closure of the project and will transfer the remaining funds requested to each contributor. To ensure there is no issue during these operations, ICAO CDI will need bank account details to be credited.

2.15 The Meeting acknowledged the significance of CRV's security assessment task, an APAC regional network. Security assessment would allow member states to find vulnerabilities in the network and fix them. Additionally, it will support the discussion carried out in CRV OG for future firewall mandates. However, the process would be very complicated if ICAO CDI carried out the project. CRV OG is already working on a new CRV contractual process, which is a pervasive and exhaustive process and requires significant effort, time, and contributions. Given that the timeline to utilize the remaining funds is five years, from December 2022 to December 2027, the Meeting suggested not using MSA's remaining money for security assessment work. As the security assessment of CRV is essential and crucial for determining the security and trust of the APAC regional network, the Meeting agreed to incorporate this task in the new CRV contract management process.

Latest status of decisions on using the remaining funds

2.16 During CRV OG ad-hoc expert group meetings held after CRV OG/12 in 2024, further discussion was held on utilizing the remaining money for the CRV II Request for Proposal (RFP) process if it will be done in the future. Some CRV experts shared an example of a recent Caribbean Air Navigation Services Network (CANSNET) RFP project executed in support of ICAO CDI and the high service fee charged by ICAO CDI based on tender value. CRV Ad-hoc expert group shared concerns about following similar practices for CRV II RFP and its impact on CRV users as CRV RFP value may go up to millions of dollars.

2.17 CRV OG ad-hoc expert group shared that ICAO CDI should follow a similar process for supporting CRV II RFP as that followed in 2014 for CRV RFP. As the MSA was signed in 2014, and the revised project document was attached to the same MSA, the ICAO Secretariat was requested to coordinate with ICAO CDI to use the same terms and conditions for the CRV II RFP using the remaining money as was done in the first phase of the CRV project.

2.18 ICAO Secretariat coordinated with ICAO CDI. ICAO CDI informed us that it will support the implementation of RAS14801 Rev B. It informed that the document has been approved and signed, and ICAO CDI considers that the implementation is ongoing under APAC management. ICAO CDI will support any request for the recruitment and deployment of experts (budget of 46,000 USD) and the purchase of equipment and/or services (budget of 30,000 USD). ICAO's overhead will be applied accordingly, as agreed in the approved budget (BL 53.001). In addition, if the project wants to implement the budget in one year, there will be no problem.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The Meeting is invited to:

- a) note the information contained in this paper;
- b) discuss a way forward for preparing the plan for utilization of remaining money for CRV; and
- c) discuss any relevant matter as appropriate.
