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THE FIFTEENTH MEETING OF THE COMMON AERONAUTICAL VIRTUAL PRIVATE NETWORK OPERATIONS GROUP (CRV OG/15)

Mumbai, India, 15-19 June 2026

Agenda Item 11: Using the rest of the 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 the Management Service Agreement (MSA)* to extend the project and utilize the remaining funds 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). The project was therefore extended from **1 March 2023 to 29 February 2028**.

1.4 The half-day AMC Workshop and the Twelfth Meeting of the Aeronautical Communication Services (ACS) Implementation Coordination Group (ACSICG/12) were held at the ICAO APAC Regional Office, Bangkok, Thailand, from 25 to 28 March 2025. The AMC workshop and ACSICG/12 Meeting were attended by 75 participants from 18 States/Administrations, 2 international organizations and 1 industry partner. The meeting report, working papers, information papers, and other resources can be accessed by the following link:

<https://www.icao.int/APAC/meetingdocs?fid=917>

1.5 CRV Workshop for PSIDS was held from 3-4 March 2025 and the Thirteenth Meeting of the Common aeRonautical Virtual Private Network Operations Group of APANPIRG (CRV OG/13) was held from 5 to 8 March 2025, in Wellington, New Zealand. The Meeting was attended by 74 participants from 26 Member States/Administrations, 3 International Organizations and 2 telecommunication providers. The meeting report, working papers, information papers, and other resources can be accessed by the following link:

<https://www.icao.int/APAC/meetingdocs?fid=593>

1.6 The Special Session - Fourteenth Meeting of the Common aeRonautical Virtual Private Network Operations Group of APANPIRG (CRV OG/14) was held from 27 to 31 October 2025 in Tokyo, Japan. The Meeting was attended by 70 participants from 28 Member States/Administrations, 1 International Organization and 3 telecommunication providers. The meeting report, working papers, information papers, and other resources can be accessed by the following link:

<https://www.icao.int/APAC/meetingdocs?fid=553>

1.7 This paper summarized 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 18 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 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 remainder 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 31 December 2025, 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 the pioneer member states. However, most pioneer states expressed their interest in continuing the fund for CRV in various CRV OG meetings held afterwards. 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 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 the 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**.

2.9 In **CRV OG/11 (1 to 3 February 2023)**, New Zealand presented Safety Assessment options for the CRV using the remaining funds. The six possible Security Review options were provided to be considered by the CRV OG/11 meeting.

2.10 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.

2.11 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.

2.12 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.***

2.13 Based on the adopted ToR, the CRV OG Ad-hoc Expert Group invited quotations from different vendors to prepare cost estimates for the work. In the **CRV OG/12 Meeting (22-26 January 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.

2.14 The CRV OG/12 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 HQ is USD 88,000 (as of 31 December 2025), 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 CRV OG/12 Meeting discussed the way forward for **generating two work orders for two tasks to Aura and ZX Security** and requested ICAO to suggest the process to transfer funds to Aura and ZX Security for assigned tasks if agreed to be appointed by the Meeting in the future.

2.15 However, after coordination with ICAO HQ, it was informed that ICAO cannot transfer funds to a supplier with whom the Organization has no contractual agreement. Alternatively, ICAO HQ may refund all or part of the project balance to the Member States according to the respective quota of their contributions upon request. The States would then be able to use the funds according to their needs.

2.16 The CRV OG/12 Meeting acknowledged the significance of CRV's security assessment task, an APAC regional network. A 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. CRV OG was already working on a new CRV contractual process, which was a pervasive and exhaustive process and required significant effort, time, and contributions. Given that the timeline to utilize the remaining funds is five years, from March 2023 to March 2028, the CRV OG/12 Meeting suggested **not using the remaining project balance 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.

The latest status of decisions on using the remaining funds

2.17 Currently, there is **no decision on the way forward** for using the remaining funds. At the CRV OG/14 Meeting (27-31 October 2025), the CRV II contract management process was completed, and the CRV contract was extended until 2033.

2.18 The current project is expiring on **29 February 2028**. There is a need for a decision to utilize the remaining funds before the proposed timelines.

2.19 If the Meeting anticipates using the remaining funds after February 2028, it is necessary to initiate the process to extend the project with a new proposed plan and dates.

2.20 Alternatively, the Meeting may consider initiating the refund process to all 16 pioneer States, if there is no plan to utilise the remaining funds in the near future.

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 the remaining money for CRV; and

- c) discuss any relevant matter as appropriate.
