



International Civil Aviation Organization

**The Fourth Meeting of the Air Traffic Flow Management Task Force
(ATFM/TF/4) and BOBCAT Workshop**

Bangkok, Thailand, 7 to 11 November 2005

Agenda Item 6: Operational Trial Arrangements

UPDATE ON BOBCAT DEVELOPMENT

(Presented by Thailand)

SUMMARY

The purpose of this working paper is to advise the meeting of the continuing progress of work being undertaken by AEROTHAI in the development of BOBCAT.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The meeting would recall that extensive discussions have taken place on ATFM matters through three Task Force meetings as well as three Special Coordination meetings since January 2005. All meetings have been well represented by most States concerned, ICAO and IATA to discuss and propose a mechanism for the development and implementation of a suitable air traffic flow management system to cater for the westbound night-time rush period through the Kabul FIR.

1.2 It should also be noted that ATFM/TF/2 were presented with an AEROTHAI detailed Concept of Operations for the Bay of Bengal Cooperative ATFM Advisory System (BOBCAT). The Concept of Operations Document was further updated at ATFM/TF/3 and this update expected to continue as development and enhancements leads us towards the operational trial in close cooperation with concerned States and IATA.

2. DISCUSSION

Further Research on BOBCAT Critical Issues

2.1 The meeting is advised that, in addition to conducting Paper Trials at AEROTHAI premises between 5-7 October 2005 and 19 October 2005 from flight data from airlines, AEROTHAI has done further research on the following BOBCAT critical issues:

- a) Draft AIP Supplement;
- b) Suggested Topics to be included in the BOBCAT ATFM Operational Handbook;
- c) Research on Maximum Acceptable Delay parameter;
- d) Research on Wheels Up Time and Wheels Up Buffer Time;
- e) Research on BOBCAT Intermediate Waypoints;
- f) Research on Cutoff Time to be used;
- g) Research on Time Period of BOBCAT Operations; and,

- h) Research on Alternative Solution for Aircraft Missing BOBCAT Wheels Up Time plus Buffer

2.2 The meeting is invited to note the results of further research as a result of Paper Trial held on 5-7 October and 19 October 2005 above are described in WP/2, WP/3, WP/4, WP/5, WP/6, WP/7, WP/12, WP/13 and WP/14 submitted for consideration of ATFM/TF/4.

BOBCAT Software Development Progress

2.3 The meeting should note that development of Airline Dispatcher User Interface is almost completed with the majority of components to be shown and tested at BOBCAT Workshop. ANSP User Interface and ATFMU interface are also in the final stages of completion.

2.4 Software components of BOBCAT are ready for integration with hardware. The hardware has been purchased and delivery is expected in the week commencing 14 November 2005. This software/hardware integration will take approximately 3 days to complete.

BOBCAT System Hardware Procurement

2.5 BOBCAT system hardware procurement contract has been signed with an equipment vendor on 15 October 2005. Parts of the hardware have already been delivered to AEROTHAI. The meeting should note that according to the procurement contract, the vendor is obliged to deliver all BOBCAT System hardware to AEROTHAI by 15 November 2005.

BOBCAT Domain name registration including Website.

2.6 The BOBCAT Domain Name registration process has commenced and website development is reaching finality.

Establishment of an Air Traffic Flow Management Unit (ATFMU)

2.7 The design and planning layout of the ATFMU Office has been completed. Contractors will shortly commence work on ATFMU renovation and decorations. Installation of equipment will then take place. Once equipment has been installed, including linkup to the BOBCAT system, several trials will be conducted to ensure reliability of the ATFMU before coordinated trials commence with ANSPs and airline dispatchers.

2.8 Development of ATFMU procedures is underway. Suitable ATFMU staff with ATC experience have been selected and a training programme is under preparation. Training of ATFMU staff will commence shortly.

2.9 The ATFMU has been allocated an AFTN address of VTBBZDZX.

Other areas where training is required

2.10 Once agreement has been reached on many of the items mentioned in other Thailand working papers, training exercises will be developed and programmed for Area Control, AIS and Aerodrome Control staff.

3. **ACTION BY THE MEETING**

3.1 The meeting is invited to:

- a) Note the ongoing BOBCAT development within AEROTHAI;
- b) Be assured that all necessary actions will be completed well in advance of the proposed operational trials.

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