

Maintaining Quality and Effectiveness in a Testing System – The RELTA



RMIT University

Melbourne, Australia



- Aviation English training and testing materials - 15 years
- Release of ICAO language proficiency requirements – development of new testing system:
- **RMIT English Language Test for Aviation (RELTA)**

ICAO LPRs and Testing

Annex 1

- ... pilots and air traffic controllers shall demonstrate the ability to speak and understand the language used for **radiotelephony** communications.

Appendix

- LPRs applicable to both **phraseology** and **plain English**.

Holistic Descriptors

- communicate in **radiotelephone** and **face-to-face** situations;
- communicate on common, concrete and work-related topics;
- use communicative strategies to exchange messages and **resolve misunderstandings** in general or work-related contexts;
- manage linguistic challenges presented by an **unexpected** turn of events that occur within the context of a **routine** work situation or communicative task which is **unfamiliar**.

Quality in proficiency tests

- Validity
- Reliability
- Authenticity
- Interactivity
- Fairness
- Practicality

• Validity

• Reliability

• Authenticity

• Interactivity

• Fairness

• Practicality

• ICAO LPRs:

- Radiotelephony
- Phraseology
- Plain English
- Routine → non-routine
- Voice-only
- Face-to-face
- 6 ICAO criteria
- 6 bands of ICAO scale

RELTA and the LPRs

The test addresses **Annex 1, 6 and 10** and the Appendix by assessing:

- understanding and production of **phraseology** for communication in routine voice-only radiotelephone situations (Annex 1, Annex 6, Annex 10 and Holistic descriptors);
- understanding and production of **plain English** in contexts where phraseology does not suffice in **non-routine radiotelephone situations** (Annex 1, Annex 6, Holistic descriptors and Appendix to Annex 1)
- understanding and production of **plain English in face-to-face situations** (Appendix to Annex 1)

RELTA Delivery



Test Design

Air Traffic Controllers

ATC Listening
(30 minutes)

Speaking

- Tower
- Enroute
- Approach

(25 minutes)



Pilots

Pilot Listening
(30 minutes)

Pilot Speaking
(25 minutes)

Test Design



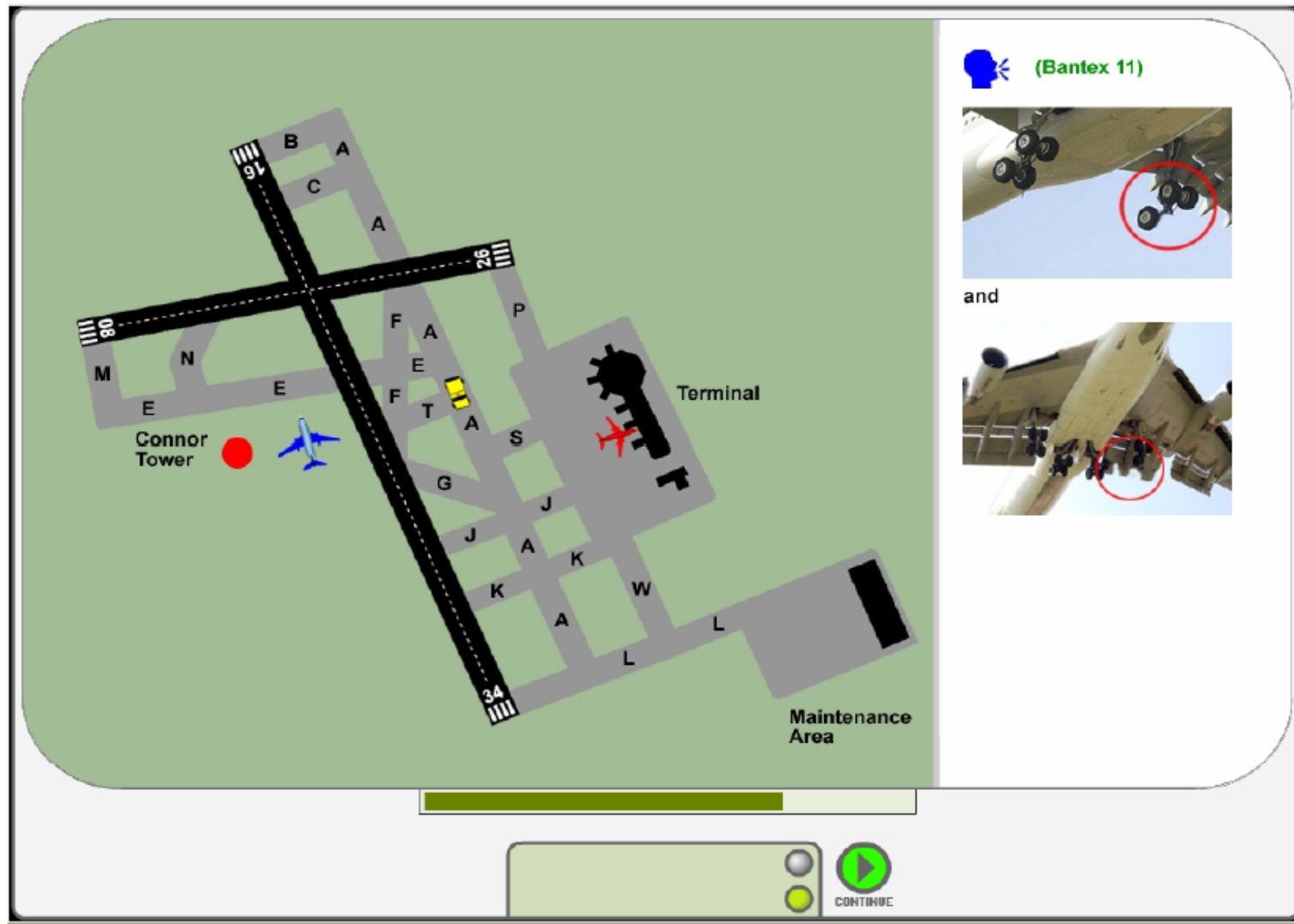
	Listening	Speaking
Section 1 (Voice-only)	Radiotelephony: Phraseology (Routine)	Radiotelephony: Phraseology (Routine)
Section 2 (Voice-only)	Radiotelephony: Plain English (Non-routine)	Radiotelephony: Plain English (Non-routine)
Section 3 (Face-to-face)	Conversation: Plain English (Complex language)	Conversation: Plain English (Complex language)

Delivery: Speaking

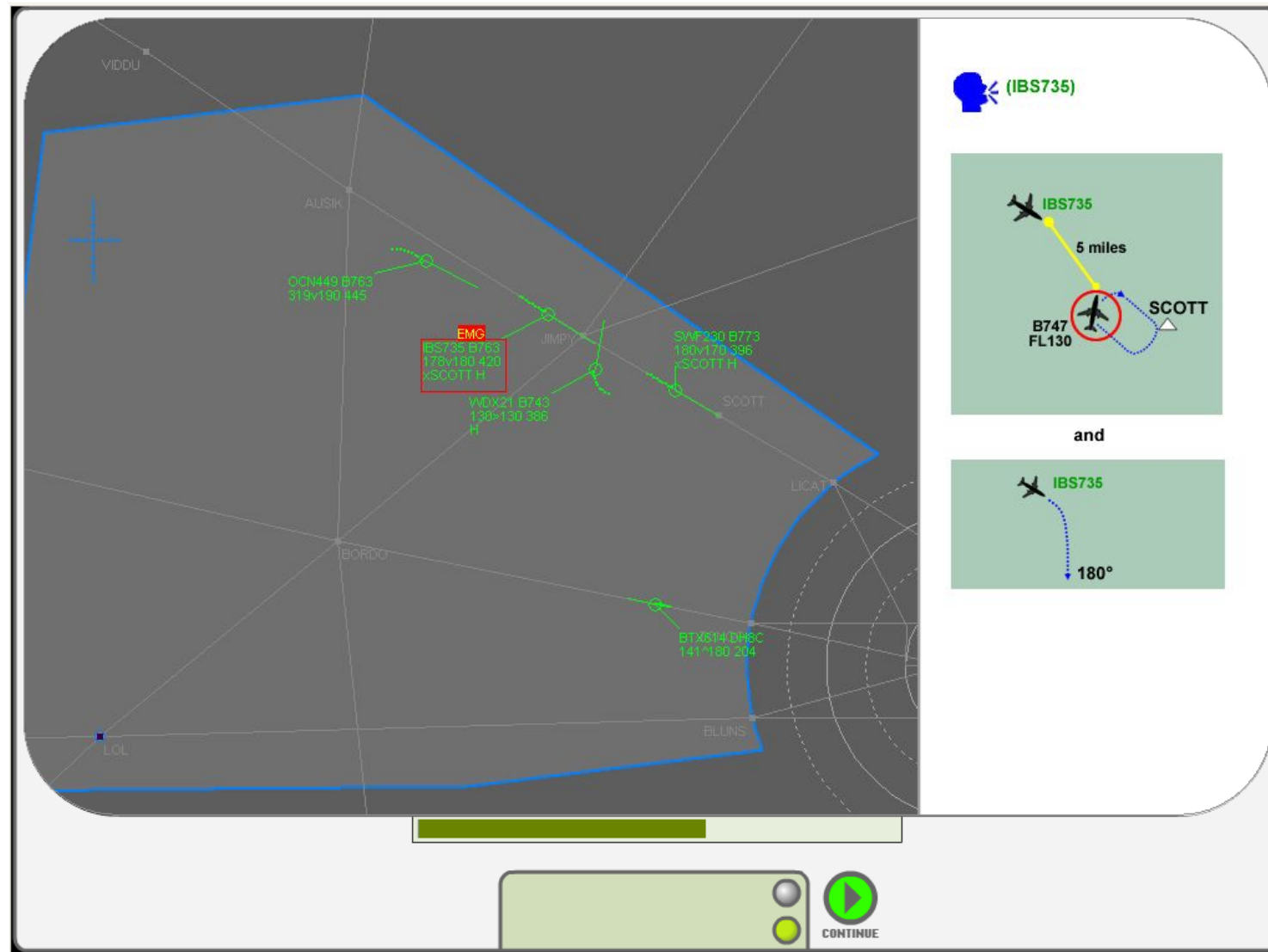


Section 2: Assesses PLAIN ENGLISH in radiotelephony

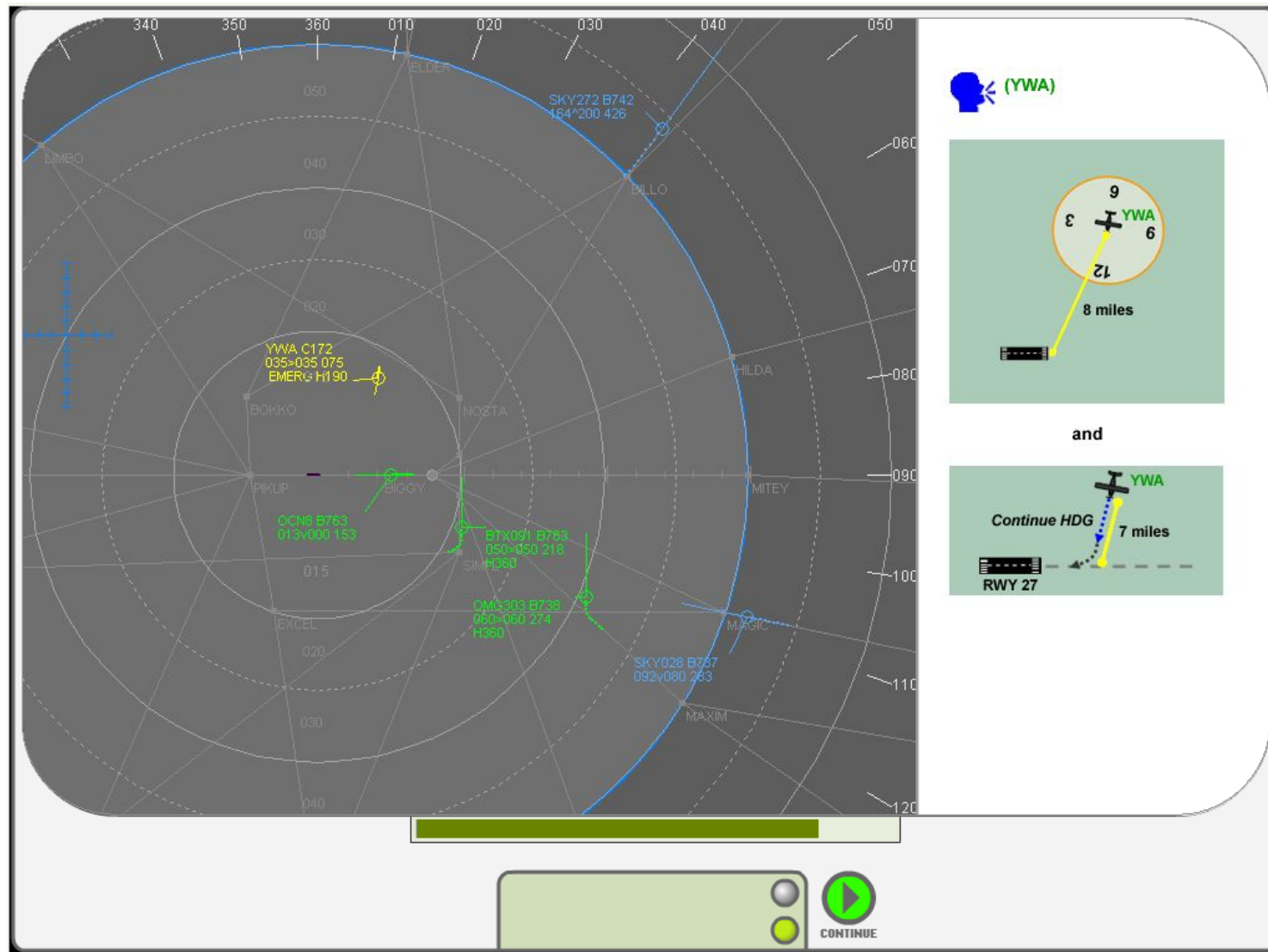
Tower



Enroute



Approach



Development

RELTA for Pilots

RELTA for Air Traffic Controllers

Trialling and evaluation



Trialling partners



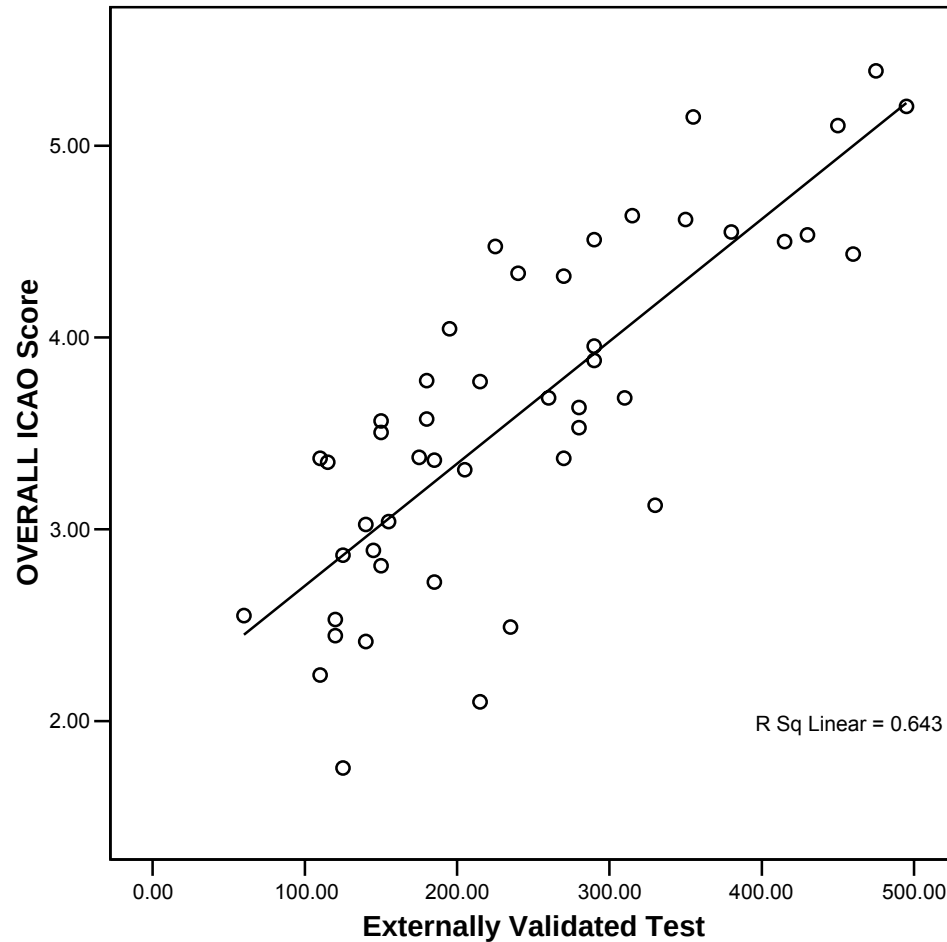
ASIANA AIRLINES



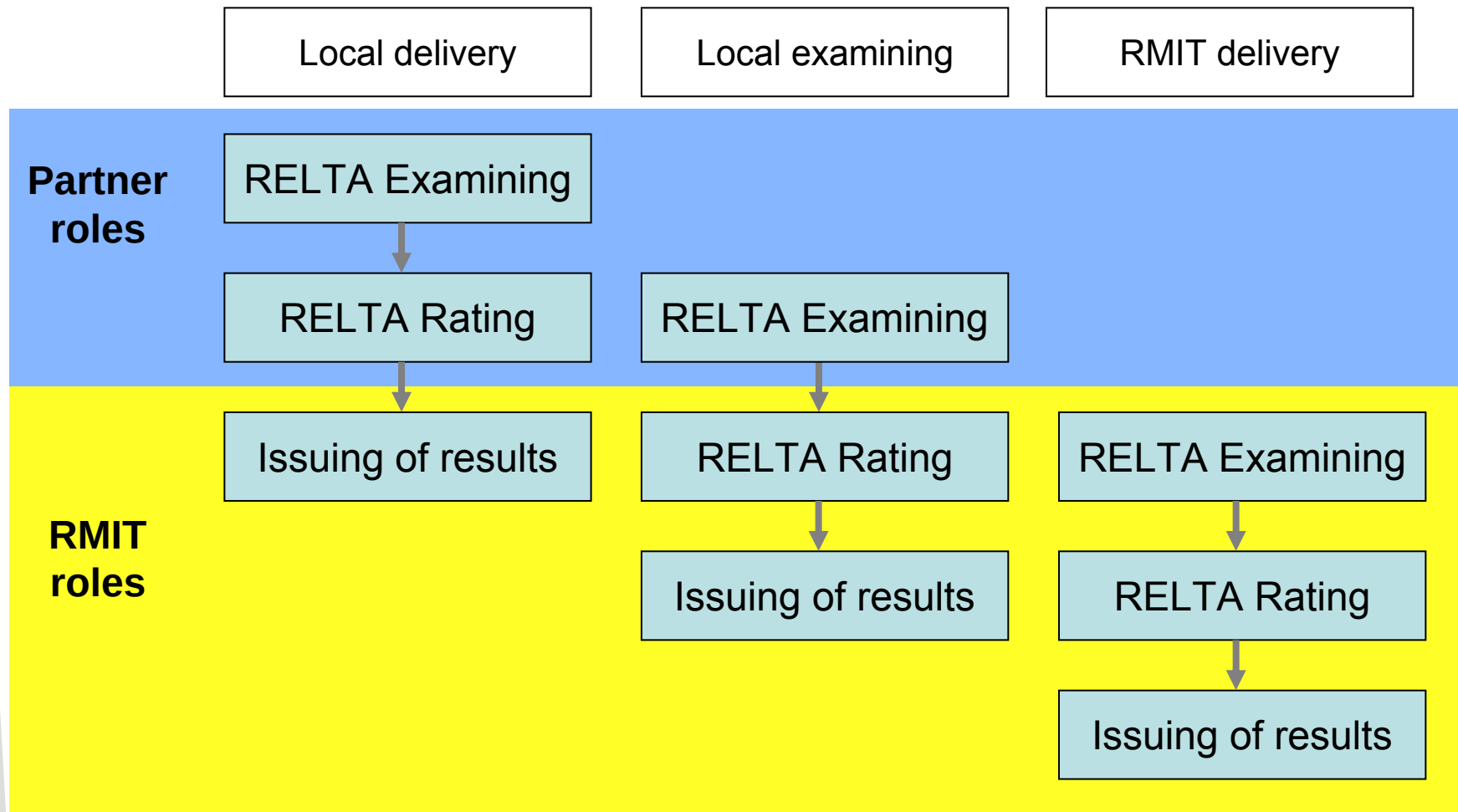
中國南方航空
CHINA SOUTHERN



Evaluation and Maintenance

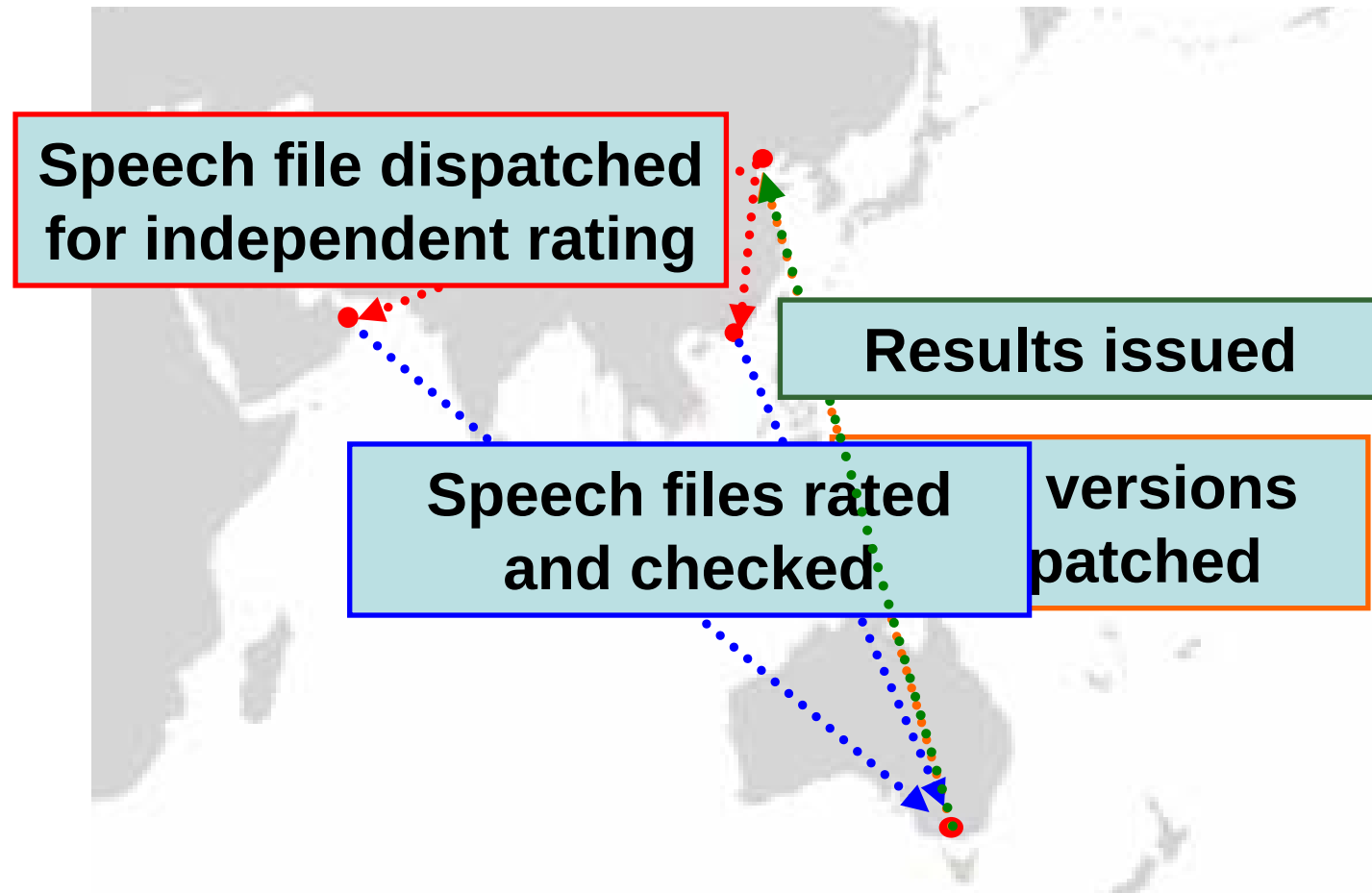


Administration: Models



Administration: Efficiencies

Internet-based test data management (SRMS)



Administration: SRMS

- Test managed centrally
- Candidate registration
- Test dispatch for local delivery
- Distributes candidate speaking files for remote rating
- Computes ICAO scores
- Identifies rater discrepancies
- Communication portal
- Stores candidate details centrally

SRMS Interface

Rater 1 (Guangzhou)

Address http://srms.relta.org/results/aviation/enter_results.php?classId=419&studentId=5859&chId=79 Go Links SnagIt

 **RELTA**
RMIT English Worldwide LANGUAGE TEST FOR AVIATION

Help Log Out

logged in as **Graeme Doyle**

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Results / Aviation / Oman Aircraft Control College / Mascat / RELTA ATC / TEST / Various 17 March 2007

Salim Mohammed Salim Al Wahaibi (Graeme Doyle)

Test scores (01-2 A T)

	Pron	Struct	Vocab	Fluen	Inter
S1	4	5	5	5	5
S2	4	5	5	4	5
S3	4	4	5	4	5

Test sound file - Live Streaming

Download

- ✓ Rater script -> [Rater Script](#)
- ✓ Sound file -> [11 March 2007](#)

Enter scores for Sections

Listen to candidate sound file

Download rating scripts

SRMS Interface

Rater 1 (Muscat)

Address: http://srms.relta.org/results/aviation/enter_results.php?classId=419&studentId=5859&schId=201

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You are logged in as **Liz Bailey**

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Salim Mohammed Salim Al Wahaibi (Liz Bailey)

Test scores (01-2 A T)

	Pron	Struct	Vocab	Fluen	Inter
S1	5	5	5	5	5
S2	5	4	5	4	4
S3	5	4	5	5	4

Test sound file - Live Streaming

Download

- ✓ Rater script - > [Rater Script](#)
- ✓ Sound file - > [11 March 2007](#)

Enter scores for Sections

Listen to candidate sound file

Download rating scripts

SRMS Interface (Melbourne)

Address: http://srms.relta.org/results/aviation/review_results.php?classId=419&studentId=5859

RELTA
RMIT English Worldwide LANGUAGE TEST FOR AVIATION

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Results > Aviation / Oman Aircraft Control College / Muscat / RELTA ATC / TEST / [View](#)

Salim Mohammed Salim Al Wahaibi (Speaking->01-2_A_T Comp->01-1_A_L)

	Pron	Struct	Vocab	Fluen	Inter	Comp	Accept
Graeme Doyle	4	4.55	5	4.2	5		
Liz Bailey	5	4.2	5	4.65	4.35		
Peter Evans						20	
Mean score	4.5	4.375	5	4.425	4.675		
Reported score	4	4	5	4	4	4	
Overall	4						
Require third rating	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	

Recalculate reported scores

Notes

Imports scores from R1 and R2

Imports Listening score

Calculates overall scores

Determines ICAO Level

Results (Melbourne)



RELTA
RMIT ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEST FOR AVIATION

RELTA Test Results Statement

Test Type ☒ Pilot ☐ Air Traffic Controller (Enroute)
☐ Air Traffic Controller (Approach)
☐ Air Traffic Controller (Tower)

Test Centre **Test date** **Candidate number**

Candidate details

Family name

Given names

Date of Birth

Sex ☒ M ☐ F

RELTA RESULTS

Pron	Structure	Vocabulary	Fluency	Comp	Interaction	Overall ICAO level
4	4	5	4	4	4	4

Authorised <i>Grant Taylor</i> International Operations Manager (Aviation English) RMIT English Worldwide Melbourne, Australia	Aviation authority stamp
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Date

Test results statement number

RELTA Sites



Conclusion

- Washback on training
- Need development and maintenance resources
- Need administration resources capability
- Test developers and users have obligations:
 - apply ICAO standard
 - safety