



International Civil Aviation Organization

NORTH AMERICAN, CENTRAL AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN OFFICE

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28 E/CAR WG – IP/08

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Agenda Item 3: Specific Air Navigation Activities and Developments
3.2 Aeronautical Information Services (AIS)

ON LINE FRENCH AIP

(Presented by France)

SUMMARY

This Information Paper presents the French approach to make available the French AIPs on the Web

1. Introduction

1.1 The French AIP contains more than 7,000 pages of technical documents (detailed maps, airport plans, descriptions of airways and regulated zones) designed for users of French airspace, including airlines, air traffic control centers and flying clubs.

1.2 SIA had been looking for an electronic data management solution since 1999, as part of a commitment to enhancing both public and private aviation safety by providing users with free access to updated maps and flight plan information.

1.3 The initiative originated from France's Air Navigation Directorate, which mandated SIA to define and estimate the cost of the related requirements.

2. Presentation

2.1 *About the SIA*

2.1.1 Aeronautical information services are defined at the international level in regulations laid down by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and implemented at the national level, within the framework of directives issued by the Air Navigation Directorate.

2.1.2 The French Aeronautical Information Service (SIA) is a national service organization within the Air Navigation Directorate, which is part of the French Transport Ministry's General Directorate of Civil Aviation.

2.1.3 The SIA is responsible for providing the aeronautical information services required to ensure safe, consistent and efficient national and international air navigation. Its activities and production are available at the following address : www.sia.aviation-civile.gouv.fr

2.2 ***About the French online AIP***

2.2.1 The SIA issued a call for tenders. The request was a rapid implementation – in less than three months – of a turnkey solution requiring as little development as possible.

2.2.2 The SIA also wanted to be able to standardize the information by converting a large number of documents from different source formats into uniform PDF files."

2.2.3 A consortium consisting of Atos Origin and Stellent, Inc was selected : Atos Origin's solution for seamless integration of the content management solution with a response that was an electronic data assembly solution, and Stellent Universal Content Management, a special-purpose software building block operating with one architecture and one server that was meeting the need for a ready-to-integrate solution.

2.2.4 This solution was both the most appropriate and the most innovative, with the scalability to meet future requirements. The system has only one user interface and is easy to use. Updated information is available simultaneously on the SIA website and in the prepress chain to produce hard-copy documents. Plans are also made for distribution on CD-ROMs.

2.2.5 This provision of web-based access to AIP content ensures compliance of online information, which means enhanced airspace safety. AIP content is updated in accordance with a precise 28-day schedule defined by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). Previously, these updates were performed without a document repository and the information was printed and distributed only on paper.

2.2.6 Furthermore, the document repository is designed to supply a shared European database. The European national services have long communicated to manage Europe's airspace and the organizations involved are currently developing data interchange standards based on a standard language. With an eye to the future European AIP, the SIA system will use the SMTP data exchange protocol and the XML data transfer language. The SIA is now preparing for this interoperability, which should be feasible within the next five years.

2.2.7 The success of the project is readily apparent. Hosted with a maximum bandwidth of 1 Mbps before the data were available online, the site was quickly overwhelmed by user requests when AIP content was first posted on December 24, 2003. Within two days, the hosting service provider increased dedicated bandwidth to 4 Mbps with an additional shared 4 Mbps to accommodate peak demand. This success demonstrates how strong user demand was for online access to the databank. Since our solution was implemented, the Aeronautical Information site has received extremely enthusiastic user response, as well as a commendation from the Transport Ministry.

2.2.8 The project has last 3 years of internal reflection and project definition at SIA plus one between the call for tenders and the delivery. The cost is 130 000 € plus 13 000€ for the adaptation of the already existing SIA website .

2.3 ***About Atos Origin***

2.3.1 Atos Origin is an international information technology (IT) services company. Its business is turning client vision into results through the application of consulting, systems integration and managed operations.

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2.3.2 For more information, please visit the company's web site at <http://www.atosorigin.com>

2.4 ***About Stellent, Inc.***

2.4.1 Stellent SARL is the Paris-based subsidiary of Stellent, Inc (www.stellent.com), a global provider of content management solutions. Stellent offers its Universal Content Management system to enable rapid deployment of line-of-business websites as portals for employees or extranets for partners, as well as comprehensive enterprise solutions designed to standardize the content management for several sites and applications.

3. Suggested Action

3.1 The meeting is invited to consider the information provide in this IP in order to help if possible the implementation of electronic AIPs in the region.

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