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**Fourth Meeting of Rapporteurs of the North American, Central American, and Caribbean
(NACC/WG/RAP/04)
Online, 6-7 May 2026**

Agenda Item 3: Status of the different Task Force Action Plans, with discussion of outstanding activities, challenges, and next steps.

MONITORING THE ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMUNICATION TASK GROUP (COMM7TF) ACTION PLAN

(Presented by the COMM/TF Rapporteur)

| EXECUTIVE SUMMARY | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| This note tracks the activities to which the efforts of the Communications Task Force (COMM/TF) of the North American, Central American and the Caribbean Working Group (NACC/WG) have been directed in order to fulfil its action plan. | |
| <i>Strategic Objectives:</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Safety• Air Navigation Capacity and Efficiency• Economic Development of Air Transport |
| <i>References:</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tenth Meeting of the North America, Central America and Caribbean Working Group (NACC/WG/10) Tulum, Mexico, September 8-12, 2025• Forty First Meeting of the Communications Task Force (COMM/TF) of the North American, Central American and the Caribbean Working Group (NACC/WG), online, December 3-4, 2025. |

1. Introduction

1.1 The Action Plan of the Communications Task Force (COMMT/TF) of the North American, Central American, and the Caribbean (NACC/WG) includes key activities aimed at improving and ensuring the operation of the MEVA III network as a support for regional Air Navigation Services (ANS), focusing efforts on supporting its modernization; updating contingency procedures, as well as contributing to the regional adoption strategy of the ICAO Meteorological Information Exchange Model (IWXXM) for the dissemination of operational meteorological (OPMET) data via the ATS Message Handling System (AMHS) to system-wide information management environments (IT SWIM).

1.2. The 41st Meeting of the Communications Task Force (COMM/TF/41), held online from December 3 to 4, 2025, reviewed the operation and performance of the MEVA III network during the period March 2024–December 2025, planning for the next service provision period, as well as the follow-up on implementation activities for Project RLA22801, “Caribbean Air Navigation Services Network” (CANSNET).

1.3 The COMM/TF/41 meeting examined the urgent need to update and consolidate the communications contingency plans of MEVA members and identified specific actions to that end. It also presented and discussed the regional strategy to prepare for the operational dissemination of OPMET data in IWXXM format via AMHS to the Regional OPMET Center (ROC) in Washington, in support of Decision NACC/WG/10/04 “ACTION PLAN FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF IWXXM OPMET DATA DISSEMINATION”.

2. Discussion

2.1 Frequentis, the service provider for the MEVA III network, briefed the COMM/TF/41 meeting on the main causes of service interruptions that occurred between March 2024 and December 2025. Fifty-seven entries were logged in the reporting system during this period.

| Significant failures | Observations |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| BUC (Block Up Converter) failures at the Haiti node. | Two BUCs are currently being delivered to the site. |
| The chassis and batteries of the UPS (Uninterruptible Power Supply) units need to be replaced in several locations. | It has not caused any disruptions, although it poses a risk of communication failure. New UPS units will be provided upon delivery of the CANSNET equipment. |
| ODU (Outdoor Unit) failures at the Mérida node due to lightning strikes. | There is no suitable grounding system at the site, which poses a potential risk of damage to the satellite station equipment. The ANSP (SENEAM) must take action to implement the necessary grounding. |

2.2 The extension of MEVA III services until March 31, 2026, expired without the CANSNET network being in service. For this reason, Meeting NACC/WG/COMM/TF/41 analysed the need to extend the services for a further period. Taking into account the provider's guarantee of a single payment for recurring costs should the CANSNET implementation be completed before the end of the new extension, the members agreed to sign a new extension contract until March 2027, adopting Conclusion “COMM/TF/41/02 EXTENSION OF THE MEVA III SERVICES CONTRACT (APR 1, 2026 – MAR 31, 2027)”. All agreements were signed in a timely manner.

2.3 The process of signing individual CANSNET contracts for project members took much longer than planned. The root cause lay in the internal procedures that members had to follow. In March 2026, the State of Mexico had yet to sign, but the provider agreed to begin the implementation process, establishing a timeline (**Appendix**) that calls for the new network to become operational no later than April 1, 2027.

2.4 The new service period presents new challenges for MEVA III. A transition to a new satellite will be necessary by July 31, 2026, when IS14—which currently supports the system—will be decommissioned. This transition will require the antennas to be re-pointed and adjustments to the hardware of the outdoor satellite station units (ODUs) at each node. Frequentis is working with INTELSAT to migrate to an alternate satellite. The re-pointing of the antennas is scheduled for the second quarter of 2026, with service continuity maintained.

2.5 On the other hand, the MEVA III node in Venezuela will not remain in operation during the new period. Taking into account the lessons learned from the removal of the Bogotá node from the network, the meeting considered implementing the voice channels with the CAR region that this node guaranteed through the solution integrating MEVA III, COCESNA, and the South American Digital Network (REDDIG II), which was used for the successful reactivation of the Jamaica-Barranquilla and Curaçao-Barranquilla links in 2024 and 2025. To this end, it adopted Conclusion COMM/TF/41/03, “IMPLEMENTATION OF VOICE LINKS BETWEEN THE CAR STATES AND VENEZUELA THROUGH THE TECHNICAL INFRASTRUCTURE OF MEVA III, COCESNA, AND REDDIG.”

2.6 The following table shows the current status of the implementation of the voice links that were previously managed through the MEVA III nodes located in Colombia and Venezuela, for the interconnection of the MEVA III and REDDIG II networks

| Oral link | Implementation topology | Implementation status |
|----------------------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| CAR - Venezuela | | |
| Curaçao/Caracas (Venezuela) | MEVA + COCESNA + REDDIG | 07/04/26 |
| San Juan (Puerto Rico) / Caracas (Venezuela) | REDDIG Node San Juan | 07/04/26 |
| Aruba/Josefa Camejo (Venezuela) | MEVA + COCESNA + REDDIG | In progress |
| CAR - Colombia | | |
| Curaçao / Barranquilla (Colombia) | MEVA + COCESNA + REDDIG | 27/03/2025 |
| Curacao/Bogotá (Colombia) | MEVA + COCESNA + REDDIG | In progress |
| Jamaica/Barranquilla (Colombia) | MEVA + COCESNA + REDDIG | 23/11/2024 |

2.7 Updating and coordinating among members of the MEVIII network regarding the “Regional Voice and Data Communications Contingency Plan” is a key point to ensuring the operational continuity and resilience of CNS/ATM services in the Caribbean Region. Given that MEVA III will continue to operate for at least another year, the COMM/TF group adopted DECISION COMM/TF/41/04 “UPDATE OF THE REGIONAL VOICE AND DATA COMMUNICATIONS CONTINGENCY PLAN” and appointed an ad hoc group comprising the Bahamas, Cuba, the United States, Haiti, and the Dominican Republic to update the MEVA Contingency Matrix, taking into account new scenarios and challenges.

2.8 The COMM/TF/41 Meeting adopted DECISION NACC/WG/10/04, “ACTION PLAN FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF OPMET IWXXM DATA DISSEMINATION,” in support of the strategy outlined by NACC/WG/10. To date, in coordination with the Meteorology Task Force (MET/TF), the following activities have been carried out:

- a) Using the TAC-to-IWXXM translators in Cuba (NOC MUHA), tests were conducted to generate XML files corresponding to the TAC OPMET (METAR) reports issued by meteorological services in the CAR region, which were then sent to Cuba from Washington via the Aeronautical Fixed Service (AFS).
- b) Phase III IACC-FAA-NWS interoperability tests. The XML files sent from Cuba to the FAA were generated using the translation described in subsection (a).

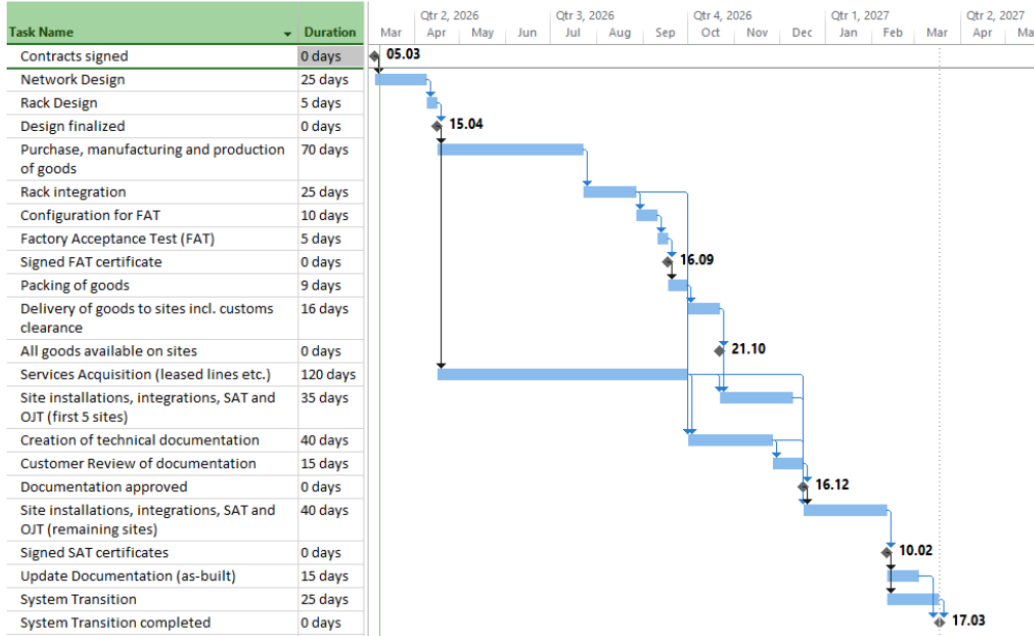
3. Recommended Actions

3.1 You are kindly invited to the Meeting:

- a) take note of the information presented.

APPENDIX

CANSNET Implementation Timeline



itation title; by <presenter>

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— END —