



*International Civil Aviation Organization*

**SPECIAL IMPLEMENTATION PROJECT (SIP) ON ATS  
INTER-FACILITY DATA COMMUNICATION  
IMPLEMENTATION SEMINAR**

Bangkok, Thailand, 12-13 October 2010

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**Agenda Item 6:            Technical Development – compatibility of AIDC implementation**

**AIRWAYS NEW ZEALAND – AFTN MESSAGE SWITCH REPLACEMENT**

(Prepared by New Zealand)

**SUMMARY**

This paper provides a briefing on current planning by Airways New Zealand towards the replacement of the current AFTN message switch by an AFTN/AMHS gateway. It is anticipated that an AMHS capable message switch will be operational before the end of 2011.

**1.        INTRODUCTION**

1.1            The current AFTN message switch at Airways was installed in 2002 and is reaching the end of its effective life. Discussions are underway within Airways with the intention of arriving at a replacement decision for the existing message switch by early 2011. It is anticipated that an AMHS –capable message switch will be operational in New Zealand before the end of 2011.

**2.        DISCUSSION**

2.1            Airways New Zealand is currently investigating an AFTN/AMHS gateway solution that will provide future flexibility for AIDC messages. Airways has no plans to seek a replacement for the current character orientated encoding rules defined in the Asia/Pac AIDC ICD and PANS-ATM Doc 4444 and sees no pressing need to move to a binary AIDC application.

2.2            An AFTN/AMHS gateway solution will provide the flexibility to retain the current Airways OCS and Skyline ATM systems existing serial-based AFTN connections while allowing migration to IP-based connections at a later date.

2.3            The AFTN/AMHS gateway solution will also provide us with the ability to determine by bi-lateral agreement how the existing character based AIDC messages are transmitted. Either via AFTN or encapsulated in an AMHS envelope.

**3.        ACTION BY THE MEETING**

3.1            The meeting is invited to note the above information.

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