

SADIS COST RECOVERY ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP

TWENTY-SIXTH MEETING

(Virtual Meeting, 3 December 2025)

ESTIMATED SADIS COSTS : 2 to 5 YEARS

(Presented by the United Kingdom)

REFERENCES

SADIS Agreement
SCRAG Reports 1-25
METP WG-MOG/3 Report
METP WG-MOG/4 Report
METP WG-MOG/6 Report
METP WG-MOG/10 Report
METP WG-MOG/13 Report
METP WG-MOG/15 Report
METP WG-MOG/18 Report
METP WG-MOG/22 Report
METP WG-MOG/26 Report
METP WG-MOG/30 Report

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The medium term (two to five years) forecast of the expected costs of operating the SADIS Services are provided in this Working Paper. Resource requirements will vary due to changing demand and these have been anticipated where possible and identified in the tables presented. Where the METP WG-MOG has identified potential changes to the SADIS inventory, these will be reflected as appropriate.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 The attached Table 1 and 2 identifies expected budgets for the years 2026 to 2029 based on expected trends for expenditure by the Met Office and NATS. 2023 actual costs and 2025 forecast costs are provided for comparison, as requested by the SCRAG/12 meeting.

2.2 All three parts of the SADIS API are now operational. Cost projections for the API elements are based on assumptions about exactly what different organisations will download, and how quickly organisations will set up their systems to use the API, but it is hoped that they will give a good measure of likely costs.

2.3 There will of course be a period of dual running with the old SADIS FTP and new SADIS API systems, and it is expected that costs for operating the SADIS FTP will decrease through time as users migrate to use the SADIS API.

2.4 It should be noted that the existing SADIS FTP system is not, and cannot be made to be SWIM compliant, something that is a fundamental requirement of the ICAO Global Air Navigation Plan (GANP) in its Aviation System Block Upgrades, in particular AMET-B2/4 and AMET-B3/4. These require meteorological information to be fully integrated into the SWIM environment by supporting request/reply or publish/subscribe access mechanisms. The SADIS FTP will be retired at the end of 2028.

2.5 The following notes should be read in conjunction with Table 1 which is contained in the Appendix to this WP, and relates to Met Office costs.

a. AWS server running costs for SADIS FTP

The cost of operating SADIS FTP using Amazon Web Services (AWS) cloud computing reflects all the individual elements that make up SADIS. The cost is expected to remain fairly steady until mid to late 2027 when costs decrease ahead of the systems retirement in November 2028. .

b. SADIS API running costs

The cost projections for each of the three SADIS API elements are shown separately. The SADIS provider has worked out likely user downloading profiles, and then forecast the number of users over time. Figures were re-calculated in 2025 due to a faster than expected onboarding of new users.

The costs relate to the user authentication part of the system (for which the cost relates to the number of requests for data made by the users) and then a background operating cost for the data distribution part of the system.

c. First Line Support Costs

This includes 24x7 incident handling functions (call and e-mail) provided by the Met Office Service Desk. A set figure is estimated for each year, but will ultimately depend on the actual number of incidents handled.

d. Second Line Support

This includes 24x7 system monitoring and incident handling functions to ensure the timely resolution of any SADIS operating problems. For each year the initial estimate is shown, but the exact figure will relate to the number of incidents handled.

- e. **Third and Fourth Line Support**
This includes incident investigation and resolution provide by the development team that supports SADIS. For each year the initial estimate is as shown in the table below, but the exact figure will relate to the number of incidents handled. Support costs are maintained at a steady level from 2026 onwards, and apply to both the SADIS API and the SADIS FTP.
- f. **Administration support staff cost**
Support is primarily provided by the SADIS Manager in the day to day operation of SADIS, management of user accounts, liaison with users, invoicing and planning and development work within the remit of the METP-WG/MOG (SADIS). Procurement and Finance support is required to implement the SADIS Cost Recovery process (SCRAG).
- g. **Travel Costs**
Travel and subsistence costs for Met Office staff to attend appropriate Meteorological Panel Working Groups (Meteorological Operations Group, WG-MOG, in relation to SADIS) and SCRAG meetings are included here. The MOG meeting in 2026 is expected to be held in the United Kingdom however future meetings could also be held away from the United Kingdom.
- h. **Cost of Capital**
Cost of capital for future years has been estimated using the revised methodology applied in 2008 and described in SCRAG/10 WP/13. It is increasing as the part of the cost that relates to satellite assets is increasing.
- i. **Administrative costs (bank charges, couriered invoices etc)**
Following SCRAG Conclusion 14/7, this item includes costs relating to the processing of invoices (usually when administration charges reduce the amount actually received by the SADIS Provider by a small amount), or the cost of couriered invoices where normal surface mail is unreliable.

2.6 Notes on SADIS Gateway costs.

- j. **NATS gateway costs**
The NATS SADIS Gateway Costs are as described in SCRAG19- WP/16 and were simplified for future NATS gateways costs.
- k. **Maintenance**
These costs relate to maintenance of the messaging system used to collect data from the Aeronautical Fixed Service before it is routed onwards to SADIS. The messaging system is used for multiple tasks, so this is only a small proportion of the total maintenance cost.

l. Travel Costs

Travel and subsistence costs for NATS staff to attend appropriate Meteorological Panel Working Groups (Meteorological Operations Group, WG-MOG, in relation to SADIS) and SCRAG meetings are included here.

2.6 Notes on CAA and ICAO costs

m. ICAO Administration costs are detailed in WP/8

3. CONCLUSIONS

3.1 Operating costs of the SADIS API will continue to increase gradually as more and more users migrate over from the SADIS FTP and as new organisations who never used the SADIS FTP come onboard. The new SADIS API system modernises the SADIS provision making it SWIM compliant and future proofs SADIS provision for many years to come.

3.2 It should be noted that 15 years ago the annual SADIS operating cost (when there was a satellite based SADIS and also the first SADIS FTP) reached a peak of GBP 680,000 per year, and operating costs have been decreasing ever since. The SADIS API system does result in increased operating costs but is handling a much, much larger data sets than ever before.

4. ACTION

4.1 The SCRAG/26 is requested to note these provisional figures for the SADIS Costs.

APPENDIX

TABLE 1: UKMO Cost and manpower resource projections until year 2029 (at 2025 prices)

INVENTORY REF: Note DESCRIPTION			Actual 2024	Revised Estimate 2025	Est 2026	Est 2027	Est 2028	Est 2029
UK MET OFFICE COSTS								
1 Equipment								
Not procured principally for SADIS								
AWS Server running costs for SADIS FTP	a		35,021	36,800	37,000	35,000	25,000	0
SADIS API OPMET running costs	b		11,440	21,400	22,000	24,000	26,000	28000
SADIS API WAFS Gridded data running costs	b		31,334	42,000	50,000	55,000	60,000	60000
SADIS API WAFS SIGWX running costs	b			18,800	20,000	24,000	28,000	30000
Equipment sub total			77,795	119,000	129,000	138,000	139,000	118,000
2 Annual Staff Requirements								
Operating Support								
	c	First Line Support	2,599	3,500	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000
	d	Second Line Support	3,889	4,000	4,500	5,000	5,000	5,500
	e	Third and Fourth Line Support	10,088	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
Additional Support								
Administrator	f	Executive Officer	70,695	71,000	72,000	73,000	74,000	75,000
International Aviation Management	f	Aviation Manager	8,051	8,200	8,500	8,800	8,800	9,000
Contract Procurement and Management	f	Senior Procurement Officer	1,906	1,600	1,800	1,800	1,800	1,900
Invoice Administration	f	Finance Officer & Business Acct	8,693	9,200	10,000	11,000	12,000	15,000
Travel Costs								
	g	METP-WG/MOG meetings & SCRAG	0	2,000	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,500
Staff Requirement and travel sub total			105,921	119,500	122,000	124,800	126,800	131,900
Administrative costs								
	h	Cost of Capital	23,681	24,000	24,000	24,000	25,000	25000
	i	Admin charges	189	200	200	200	200	200
Total UKMO Costs			207,586	262,700	275,200	287,000	291,000	275,100

3 TABLE 2: NATS and other SADIS Cost Projections until year 2029 (at 2025 prices)

INVENTORY REF: Note DESCRIPTION			Actual 2024	Revised Estimate 2025	Est 2026	Est 2027	Est 2028	Est 2029
NATS Gateway Costs								
Staff Costs								
Operational Staff	j	Air Traffic Services Asst.	261,699	276,092	282,994	289,503	295,583	301,790
Engineering Staff	j	Maintenance Engineer	8,624	9,098	9,325	9,540	9,740	9,945
Administration Staff	j	Administration Officer	36,387	38,388	39,348	40,253	41,098	41,961
Staff Costs sub total			306,710	323,578	331,667	339,296	346,421	353,696
	k	Maintenance	10,745	11,145	11,424	11,686	11,931	11,182
	l	T&RE	226	0	1,768	4,200	1,824	1,862
Total NATS Gateway Costs			317,681	334,723	344,859	355,182	360,176	366,740
4 ICAO Administration Costs			37,536	30,339	32,151	34,000	36,000	39,000
TOTAL SADIS COSTS			562,803	627,762	652,210	676,182	687,176	680,840