

# European Regional Eighteenth Meeting of Aeronautical Fixed Service Group (AFSG/18)

7-11 April 2014

Paris, France

## Meeting Report Summary

ACISCG/1 - IP/5  
Agenda Item 2  
07/05/14

- Agenda Item 1: Review of the latest significant developments
- Agenda Item 2: Operational Network matters
- Agenda Item 3: Regional AFS Planning
- Agenda Item 4: Technical/Documentation matters
- Agenda Item 5: Deficiencies
- Agenda Item 6: Review of the Work Programme
- Agenda Item 7: Any Other Business.

# Agenda Item 1: Review of the latest significant developments

1. ICAO Global Air Navigation Plan (GANP) ASBU-B0 was discussed along with GANP Road Map 2 in Block 0 time frame. AFSG concludes that AIDC and AMHS will continue implementation and would be in operation in the region. IPv4 will be gradually replaced by IPv6 and voice communication will be replaced by VoIP.
2. The ICAO Global Aviation Safety Plan (GASP) was updated recently and designed to assist ICAO States and regions in their air navigation safety policy, planning and implementation
3. The introduction of XML/IWXXM in the MET environment in the upcoming MET Division Meeting. AFSG needs to provide support so that the regional views concerning the integration of meteorology in the future System Wide Information Management (SWIM) environment and associated governance would be conveyed and feedback provided for the completion of the XML Concept of Operations (CONOPS)

# Agenda Item 1: Review of the latest significant developments

4. ATM Security / Cyber Security: AFSG concluded that Aeronautical Communication Panel (ACP) should be leading the effort for development of a global Cyber Security architecture. It's recommended that EUR Doc 022R EUR AFS Security Guidelines needed enhancements regarding the provisions from ICAO AVSEC documentation.
5. AFSG was informed about the AMHS interconnection in ICAO SAM Region where the goal was to have 100% of AMHS interconnections completed by late 2016.

## Agenda Item 2: Operational Network matters

1. The AFSG Operations Group confirmed that the liaisons between AMC Operator and all ICAO Regions are in place except to the AFI Region. Action is taken to reach out to AFI region.
2. The Group noted that an increasing number of messages with unexpected originator addresses continued to pass through the Moscow COM Centre. The AFSG Operations Group considered that such messages are introduced into the network by third-party Service Providers using originator addresses not compliant to Annex 10 and proposed to develop a solution for this problem. This effort is on-going.
3. AMHS Interoperability Tests between Austria and Switzerland indicated the implementations of MTCUs and UAs behaved differently in regard to the ATS-message-Optional-Heading-Info (OHI). On this subject, the Group considered that there might be some inconsistencies in ICAO Doc 9880 and proposed to elaborate an appropriate Amendment Proposal and the corresponding Change Proposal for the EUR AMHS Manual.

## Agenda Item 2: Operational Network matters

4. SITA reported that the AMHS-/SITA Type X Gateway specification was completed and its development is near completion. Other components of the AMHS/SITA Type X Gateway would include an AFTN-AMHS gateway to allow and manage airlines transition from SITA Type B to SITA Type X which would require more time.
5. The Group noted the on-going activity to identify all the AFTN addresses of SITA Users served by COM Centres connected to AFTN/SITA Type B Gateways world-wide. These addresses and the corresponding SITA addresses would be published in the AMC to support the preparation and operation of the AMHS/SITA Type X Gateway connections.
6. SITA Current end of Life low Speed AFTN Connection: several connections to AFTN used to exchange critical messages between airlines using SITA Type B and ATS organizations using AFTN that had low speed circuits were in the End of Life phase by SITA supplier. The Group was informed also that, in appropriate cases, SITA would support AFTN traffic rerouting until availability of the AMHS/SITA Type X Gateway planned to be operational late 2014. SITA is requested to coordinate closely with the AFSG Operations Group.

## Agenda Item 2: Operational Network matters

7. The Group was informed about the successful validation of the European Directory Service EDS during the first quarter of 2014. This was an important step towards EDS operation. The Group noted that the scope of the validation was the initial step defined in the Operational Concept of the European Directory Service. In this Initial Step, the AMC was the source and master of the information and the EDS was used for data distribution only.
8. A plan for EDS to begin its operation is scheduled for September 2014.
9. A decision is made for AFSG to adopt the strategy to facilitate migration of AFTN/CIDIN to AMHS by eliminating CIDIN relay traffic throughout EUR/NAT in a single coordinated action involving all COM Centres in the region. This could be achieved by bi-lateral coordination between ANSPs to insulate other uninvolved ANSPs. This approach needs to be coordinated closely with AMC.
10. AFSG also recommends the AMC and the AFSG Operations Group prepare this bi-lateral implementation for the September 2014 AIRAC cycle if possible.
11. It was highlighted that States which would not have transitioned to AMHS by 2015 remained a serious issue and solutions would need to be found. These States are urged to expedite their AMHS implementation activities.

## Agenda Item 2: Operational Network matters

12. AMHS/AFTN Operation: when traversing AFTN/AMHS/AFTN islands, an AFTN distress message (SS) and the corresponding AFTN Acknowledgement message (SS ACK) were routed over the same path in opposite directions (symmetric routing). In addition, the AFTN SS message was transported as urgent IPM through the AMHS island and converted back to an AFTN SS message to be delivered to its intended recipient who is an AFTN user. The Group noted that the Secretary would circulate the information regarding this phenomenon to the other ICAO Regions, taking into consideration the information presented in the EUR AFSG/18, WP/39 and requesting feedback on the possible occurrence of such events and the reactions in place to handle them.
13. A Common Regional VPN (CRV) for Asia/Pacific region was presented and a request to establish a policy and an Interface Control Document (ICD) to link the PENS and CRV for future support of Directory Service and SWIM. AFSG concluded in AMHS environment, the current concept of Inter-Regional Boundary Gateways, located in each Region and connected by appropriate IP connectivity, was considered fully satisfactory. AFSG recognizes that other applications of a global nature (e.g. Directory Services) might require global IP connectivity. This could take place in the context of the global IPv6 network promoted by ICAO for the support of future applications along with information security.

## Agenda Item 3: Regional AFS Planning

1. Progress in decommission of AFTN, CIDIN, and X.25 and implementation of AMHS is noted. ARINC and SITA are requested and planned to interface with EUR AFS network using AMHS based on “AMHS / SITA Type X Inter-connection Architecture” document.
2. The group recommends that the establishment of new AFTN or CIDIN connections at the international level be discouraged and connections based on AFTN or CIDIN standards be gradually phased out.
3. The interconnection of Pan European organisations or third parties to the EUR AFS should be based on the principles led down in the “AMHS / SITA Type X Interconnection Architecture” document adopted by AFSG/17.
4. SADIS: the existing SADIS 2G satellite service would be extended to November 2019, with a view to withdrawing the satellite-based service from that date. The formal testing of the distribution of MET products, currently disseminated by SADIS, should be undertaken on AMHS systems to determine the capability and minimum specification required to distribute such data. AFSG concludes the use of appropriately capable AMHS systems should be actively promoted as the primary means of distribution of traditional alphanumeric codes (TAC) OPMET information, digitally coded (XML/GML) OPMET information, and WAFS forecasts in WMO GRIB2 code form, WMO BUFR code form and PNG format.

# Agenda Item 3: Regional AFS Planning

5. AMC/EDS: the EUROCONTROL DG confirmed that Organisation will continue to deliver the AMC/EDS services after 2014 in accordance with the functions, procedures and organisation model specified in the ATS Messaging Management Manual
6. X.25/CIDIN decommission: This effort is on-going and should be completed by major hubs in the region in 2015. The AMHS Inter-operational test carried over PENS with 6 States was reported.
7. In summary, it was reported that in EUR/NAT 14 States have implemented international AMHS connections, one State has implemented AMHS nationally and five States are in the process of testing.
8. SWIM: the Federal Aviation Administration presented operational and implementation point of view to SWIM Concept. In addition, the Group was informed by FAA that SWIM was being developed and put in operation by a number of Air Navigation Service Providers (ANSPs). However, the SWIM objective had not been defined sufficiently by ICAO.
9. The Group encouraged the FAA, EUROCONTROL and ANSPs active in this domain to present their experiences regarding the implementation of the System Wide Information Management (SWIM) Operational Concept to the AFSG or to the AFSG Planning Group.
10. IPv6 allocation and sub-allocation for the region in the last decade was reviewed.

# Agenda Item 4: Technical/Documentation Matters

1. ICAO EUR AMHS Manual (EUR Doc 020) Update should be published as soon as possible. Details proposed changes are listed in AFSG/18 Report.
2. ICAO EUR ATS Messaging Management Manual (EUR Doc 021), edition 10.0 Update should be published as soon as possible. It's recommended that ICAO EUR/NAT distribute the document to other ICAO regions for comments.
3. ICAO EUR AFS Security Guidelines (Doc 022R) update: ICAO EUR AFS Security Guidelines (EUR Doc 022R) as Version 6.0 to be published as soon as possible.
4. EUR NSAP Address Registry update: the ICAO EUR NSAP Address Registry as Version 4.0 to be published as soon as possible.
5. Updated COM Charts: the annual edition of the EUR/NAT Routing Directory, Part IV - COM Charts per ICAO Region ("The Booklet") was presented in accordance with the AFSG procedures.

## Agenda Item 4: Technical/Documentation Matters

6. Amendment Proposal to ICAO DOC 9880: An Amendment Proposal (AP) to ICAO Doc 9880 on the subject of SVC processing in the AFTN/AMHS Gateway has been presented to the Group. The AP concerns a modification of the processing of AFTN service messages other than “SVC ADS ... UNKNOWN” in the AFTN/AMHS Gateway, including in particular “SVC QTA MIS” and “SVC QTA RPT” messages. This AP will be presented to the upcoming ACP WG I/M scheduled for July 2014.
7. Guidance concerning the use of P1 associations between MTAs: There are several options to operate P1 associations and an appropriate guidance (Guidance Concerning the use of P1 Associations between MTAs) to facilitate establishment of AMHS connectivity according to the operational requirements of the COM Centres involved. There was a particular focus on the question, whether an MTA should operate multiple simultaneous associations to a neighbour MTA. Due to the informative and practical nature of the aforesaid guidance material, it was decided to publish it on the AMC and forward it to other Regions for reference.

# Agenda Item 5: Deficiencies

1. Doc 7910 and Doc 8585 Forewords: the proposed amendments to the Forewords of ICAO Docs 7910 and 8585 had been forwarded to ICAO HQ for appropriate action in 2013 and despite EANPG/COG Conclusion 56/02, no feedback had been received. The AFSG urges the ICAO EUR/NAT Office to follow up with ICAO HQ to address this serious deficiency.

## Agenda Item 7: Any Other Business

1. Considering that the AMHS is now deployed and operational, the Group is proposing to organise in 2015 a workshop to showcase AMHS Status and capabilities.
2. The AFSG agreed that the next meeting will be held from 20 to 24 April 2015, in Paris, starting at 13:30 on the first day.