INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANISATION

AFI PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION REGIONAL GROUP (APIRG)

AFI OPMET MANAGEMENT TASK FORCE (AFI OPMET MTF)
FIFTH MEETING (AFI OPMET MTF53)

(Nairobi, Kenya, 3-5 July 2013)

Agenda Item 4: Review of regional guidance material on OPMET exchange – e)

REPORT OF THE CORE TEAM OF EXPERTS AFI RODB BACKUP PROCEDURES

(South Africa and Senegal)

SUMMARY

The paper presents the measures to be implemented by two AFI RODBs (Dakar and Pretoria) to ensure backup of OPMET data in the two databanks. Action by the meeting is in paragraph 4.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 During the second meeting of the Task Force (AFI OPMET MTF/2), recommendations 2/7 and 2/9 were formulated calling for the establishment of a Core Team of experts with a task to develop backup procedures for the two AFI RODBs (Dakar and Pretoria).

1.2 The AFI OPMET MTF/2 Recommendations 2/7 and 2/9 were endorsed by the tenth meeting of the Meteorological subgroup (METSG/10) held in held in Dakar, Senegal, 29 June to 1st July 2011. Subsequently, METSG/10 Decision 10/6 and Conclusion 10/7 were formulated calling for the establishment of a Core Team and implementation of an AFTN circuit between Dakar and Pretoria respectively to support the backup procedures to be developed by the Core Team of Experts.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 The meeting will recall that during the AFI OPMET MTF/4 meeting held in Pretoria, 10-11 September 2012, a Core Team of experts presented a set of procedures for adoption by the group. However, the meeting noted that there was a need for further investigation and therefore formulated AFI OPMET Decision 4/13 reproduced here below for convenience.

> ***"Decision 4/13: Developing of AFI RODBs Back Up Procedures***
>
> ***That, the Task Force:***
> ***a) Appreciates the work so far undertaken by the Core Team of Experts in developing the AFI RODBs Back Up Procedures; and***
>
> ***b) Encourage the Core Team to further investigate ways to improve the backup procedures so far developed using contributions from existing backup procedures especially from London and Washington WAFCs. "***

2.2 In this regard, several actions were taken by the Core Team since AFI OPMET MTF/4. The World Area Forecast Centre (WAFC) in London was contacted to get an understanding of the backup procedures between the two WAFCs (Washington and London). It was established that the methods of backup between SADIS 2G/Secure SADIS FTP and WIFS were different to the requirements and infrastructure of RODBs. Several lines exists for SADIS 2G and if it fails, the third line to the SADIS gateway can be used to uplink the data.

2.3 Further, Regional OPMET Centre (ROC) Toulouse was also contacted to understand the backup between Brussels, Vienna and Toulouse. It was noted that these RODBs had implemented identical Interface Control Document (ICD) and their OPMET content was mirrored. So, in case one fails, the user could simply query the other RODB and obtain the same data. This could be done by changing the AFTN query address to that of the other RODB. To ensure that both RODBs had identical OPMET data, monitoring is done every year and corrective action implemented whenever the gaps existed.

2.4 Having considered all options and what currently exist in other regions, i.e. EUR, the Core Team agreed that the current backup practice between Brussels, Vienna and Toulouse would be suitable for implementation by the two AFI RODBs. The meeting may wish to note that such a practice would be cost effective as it would not require any additional resources. The Core Team agreed that the backup of the two AFI RODBs can be achieved by implementing few measures as follows:

a) Identical catalogue of bulletins to be implemented and maintained by both Dakar and Pretoria RODBs.
b) Interface Control Document (ICD) should be implemented by both AFI RODBs. It can be noted that the ICD contains procedures for interrogation of OPMET databanks by users.
c) The bulletin compiling centers (BCCs) and or AMBEX centers disseminate OPMET data **to both** Dakar and Pretoria using appropriate AFTN addresses.
d) In the case of (c) above, enough storage capacity is required for both RODBs.
e) Conduct monitoring activities in order to ensure that the databanks contain a mirror image of OPMET data at all times.
f) A statement to be included in the ICD, AMBEX Handbook and RODB websites highlighting the fact that should one RODB be inaccessible, the same data can be queried via the other RODB. The statement should also include both the AFTN addresses of the two RODBs.

3. CONCLUSION

3.1 The backup procedure between SADIS 2G/Secure FTP and WIFS cannot be used to backup the two AFI RODBs. This is because the methods and infrastructure used are different. The current backup practice between Brussels, Vienna and Toulouse is simple and not resource intensive and the Core Team agreed that the same could be implemented by both AFI RODBs. However, for such a practice to work in the AFI Region, measures identified in paragraph 2.4 above are to be implemented first.

Draft Conclusion 5/X: Backup procedures for AFI RODBs (Dakar and Pretoria)

That, the secretariat invites the meeting to consider information presented in this paper particularly paragraph 2.4 (a-f) for adoption and implementation by both AFI RODBs as well as AFI AMBEX Centers (BCCs).

4. ACTION BY THE MEETING

4.1 The meeting is invited to note the information provided in this working paper and decide on the draft conclusion above.