



INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION
WESTERN AND CENTRAL AFRICAN OFFICE

Twenty second Meeting on the improvement of Air Traffic Services over the South Atlantic (SAT/22)
(Paris, France, 07-09 June 2017)

Agenda item 3: Communications, navigation and surveillance (CNS)

3.3 Improvement of CNS system in the SAT Region (AMHS, AIDC, ADS-B)

Implementation of AIDC

(Presented by GCAA - Ghana)

SUMMARY	
This paper provides updates to the meeting on the progress made by Ghana towards the implementation of Air Traffic Service (ATS) Inter-facility Data Communication (AIDC).	
References :	Terms of Reference of SAT /CNS GROUP Report on SAT 21 Meeting
Related ASBU Bloc 0 Modules, Performance Improvement Areas and Applications	B0-FICE/PIA2-AIDC
Related ICAO Strategic Objectives	A: <i>Safety</i> ; B: <i>Air Navigation Capacity and Efficiency</i>

1.0 INTRODUCTION

AIDC has been identified in the Aviation System Blocks Upgrades (ASBU) modules as one of the candidate functionality for the block zero elements/technologies. AIDC seeks to inter-connect Air Traffic Service (ATS) units in the aviation industry. One advantage of AIDC is that, it provides automated coordination, which significantly reduces the work load of Air Traffic Controllers while impacting positively on safety.

AIDC implementation provides benefits in terms of safety and efficiency in the following ways;

- reduces significantly, the need for oral coordination between ATS units;
- reduces controller workload;
- reduces repetition/read back errors during coordination;

During the SAT 21 meeting, **Conclusion 21/17: Implementation of AIDC** called upon states to conduct periodic teleconferences (preferably monthly) with the AIDC focal points and the SAT Secretariat, in order to study the implementation of AIDC.

2.0 DISCUSSION

In May 2016 a Sub-regional initiative began with the assistance of the ICAO WACAF Regional Office, with participation from the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

This resulted in ASECNA (for Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad & Côte d’Ivoire), GCAA (Ghana), NAMA (Nigeria) and the Roberts FIR (Guinea, Liberia & Sierra Leone) deciding to implement AIDC between identified

ATSUs taking into account the following ATS UNITS Accra, Dakar, Kano, N'Djamena, Niamey and Roberts FIRs.

Since that meeting in Togo, as well as the SAT 21 meeting held in June 2016, Ghana has been coordinating and collaborating with neighboring ATSU, mainly ASECNA to ensure the implementation of AIDC among neighboring states.

For the purposes of the SAT region, the ATS units identified for the exchange are Abidjan and Luanda. Progress is ongoing with ASECNA with respect to Abidjan.

We hope to also coordinate with ENNA by the end of this meeting to assess the possibility of establishing AIDC between and Luanda ATSUs.

2.1 CHALLENGES/ CONSTRAINTS

Ghana is in the process of installing a new ATM system which would be AIDC capable. Though there have been some delays, the installation works are currently underway. The installation works are ongoing and we plan to commence AIDC trials with our neighbors during the testing phase of our new ATM system, which is expected to commence on July 10, 2017.

Below is the roadmap of activities aimed at helping Ghana achieve complete AIDC capability.

SN	Activity	Current progress	Expected outcomes	Remarks
1.	Identification of ATS Units for AIDC exchanges with Ghana.	Abdjan, Niamey Lomé/Cotonou, Ouagadougou and Lunada identified as candidates for AIDC exchanges with Accra	All ATS units for the AIDC exchange identified.	Completed
2.	Agreement on set of AIDC Messages for exchange	Ghana agreed on the proposed set of messages by ASECNA	Reach consensus on the set of AIDC messages to be exchanged.	Ghana is yet to reach an agreement with ENANA on the messages to be exchanged.
3.	All ATM infrastructure in place	Awaiting full installation of ATM System in Ghana which is expected to be complete by the end of July 2017.	All the ATS Units identified must have ATM systems which are AIDC Capable	Testing of the systems is expected by July 10, 2017.
4.	Commencement of Trials	Installation works of ATM system for Ghana in progress.	July 10, 2017	This activity would be coordinated with all concerned ATSUs
5	Final implementation	Discussions are ongoing, with preparation of the draft LOAs (with ASECNA)	January , 2018 All letters of Agreements (LOAs) in place and signed.	By this dates, all difficulties arising from the trials would have been resolved to ensure full AIDC operations

3.0 ACTION BY THE MEETING

The meeting is invited to:

- a) Take note of the information provided in the paper.
- b) Update information on status of AIDC implementation.
- c) Discuss among member states and encourage experience sharing, especially among member states who have already implemented AIDC. This exercise will impact positively on our implementation process.

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