



International Civil Aviation Organization

MID Region ATM Enhancement Programme Steering Committee

Second Meeting (MAEP SC/2)
(Cairo, Egypt, 20-22 October 2015)

Agenda Item 2: MAEP Project/working packages

MID ATS ROUTE NETWORK OPTIMIZATION PROJECT (ARNOP)

(Presented by Secretariat)

SUMMARY

The purpose of this working paper is to apprise the meeting of the latest developments related to the MID ATS Route Network Optimization Project (ARNOP)

Action by the meeting is at paragraph 3.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Middle East Region has witnessed substantial traffic growth over the last decade. Air traffic is anticipated to continue to grow in the region, which is considered to be amongst the busiest in the world. An annual increase in traffic of 5.2% is expected in the Middle East over the next 20 years.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 The meeting may wish to recall that the MAEP SC/1 meeting, (Dubai, UAE, 20-22 January 2015) received with appreciation a proposal by UAE related to the MID Airspace project to enhance air traffic safety and efficiency. The scope of the project is to:

- Increase access to all Middle East Airports
- Increase MID Region airspace capacity
- Improve safety, or at the very least maintain the current safety factors

2.2 The meeting agreed to rename the proposal as “MID ATS Route Network Optimization Project (ARNOP)” consisting of two major phases (Study and Implementation) as follows:

Study:

Phase 1: Regional Airspace Study that includes Gap Analysis and detailed recommendations

Phase 2: Airspace Restructuring Project that includes conceptual designs and concept of operations

Implementation:

Phase 1: Implementation Plan

Phase 2: Post Implementation review and assessment.

2.3 The meeting noted that ARNOP is linked to other initiatives such as the Middle East Regional Airspace Review (MIDRAR), the ACAC CNS/ATM study and the GCC Virtual Upper FIR study, etc.

2.4 The meeting agreed to include ARNOP in the MAEP Master Plan, which was supported by the DGCA-MID/3 and MIDANPIRG/15 meetings.

2.5 The meeting may wish to note that Airbus, thankfully, has provided in kind-contribution to carry out an ATM study for the Arab Civil Aviation Commission (ACAC). It was agreed to extend the study to cover Kuwait and Tehran FIRs. It is to be highlighted that the study is considered as the Phase I of ARNOP.

2.6 The signing ceremony between Airbus and ACAC took place in Cairo at the Arab League Headquarters on 3 September 2015 during the final session of the Economic and Social Council of the League. This was only a signing ceremony; the Agreements (MOC and Project SOW) were signed on 16 June 2015 by ACAC and Airbus. Airbus ProSky kicked off the project on 29 May 2015.

2.7 The study Phases and Key Dates are at **Appendix A**. Next step of the study is the collection of data. In this respect, a questionnaire was communicated to States, which should be completed through an online application before the indicated deadline.

2.8 ACAC is following the subject with its member States and the ICAO MID Regional Office with Iran and Kuwait.

3. ACTION BY THE MEETING

3.1 The meeting is invited to encourage States to support ARNOP and provide the required data to Airbus ProSky in a timely manner.

Study Phases and Stakeholder Engagement

- The proposed Study Phases and key dates are:

Activity	Deliverables	Nominal Due Date	Notes/Explanations
Kick-off	Meeting	30 Jun. 2015	Project planning discussion and draft stakeholder questionnaire
Data Collection / Stakeholder Consultations	Questionnaires	30 Nov. 2015	Questionnaire results
ATM Assessment	Briefing / WebEx	31 Jan. 2016	Presentation for beginning Study Gap Analysis
Gap Analysis / Findings	Briefing / Presentation	31 Mar. 2016	Workshop with all Nations invited
Recommendations	Briefing / WebEx	30 Apr. 2016	Regional Level
Presentations To ANC/EX Committee	Presentations (2)	31 May 2016	Draft final report with updates received by 20 May
Final ATM Study Report	Report	30 Jun. 2016	

- The proposed Stakeholder Engagement activities are:

Stakeholder Engagement Event	Event Type	Planned Date	Notes/Explanations
Plans and Capabilities Questionnaires	Questionnaires	Jul. – Aug.	Obtain Plans & Airspace needs
Bi-Lateral questionnaire follow-up	TELCON and Correspondence	Aug. – Sep.	Obtain Plans & Airspace needs
Confirmation of data and responses	Workshop	Oct.	
Findings Workshop	Workshop	Mar 2016	Proposed location: TBD
Final Report Presentation	Presentation	May 2016	Presentation at ACAC Headquarters

Study Timeline

