



ICAO

International Civil Aviation Organization
North American, Central American and Caribbean Office

WORKING PAPER

E/CAR/NTG/10 & E/CAR/RD/8 — WP/07
01/09/21

**Tenth Eastern Caribbean Network Technical Group and Eighth Eastern Caribbean Radar Data Sharing
Ad hoc Group Meetings (E/CAR/NTG/10 & E/CAR/RD/8)**
Online, 6 to 7 September 2021

**Agenda Item 3: Operation and Performance of the E/CAR Aeronautical Fixed Services (AFS)
Network**
3.3 Improvements to the ATS Voice Link (MEVA) status and interconnection

E/CAR NETWORK INTERCONNECTION TO THE CANSNET (MEVA IV) TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORK

(Presented by the MEVA TMG Coordinator)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	
This Working Paper provides information on the development of the new regional telecommunications network that will replace the current MEVA III network.	
Action:	Suggested actions are presented in Section 3.
<i>Strategic Objectives:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Safety• Air Navigation Capacity and Efficiency• Economic Development of Air Transport• Environmental Protection
<i>References:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• NACC/DCA/09/16, MEVA/TMG/36

1. Introduction

1.1 This Working Paper provides updated information on the development of the new regional telecommunications network, the Caribbean Air Navigation Services Network (CANSNET) that will replace the current MEVA III network.

1.2 During the last meeting of the North American, Central American and Caribbean Directors of Civil Aviation Meeting (NACC/DCA/09) held in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago in June 2019, it was requested (Decision NACC/DCA/09/16) that the MEVA/TMG Ad-hoc Group facilitate the execution of the Project so that the new telecommunications network would be operative at the end of the current contract of the MEVA III network in March 2022. Unfortunately, due to the COVID19 pandemic and its effect world-wide, the Project was modified to accommodate existing conditions in the Region.

1.3 An RFI document was prepared by the Ad hoc Group and published by TCB on 1 June 2020 to explore the technology market in order to develop requirements for a Request for Proposal (RFP). The information received was evaluated by the Group in December 2020 and the beginning of 2021.

2. Discussion

2.1 The RFI pursued technical information for new technologies and solutions for terrestrial and/or satellite-based telecommunication voice and data network services between ATC Centers throughout the geographical region of the Central Caribbean (C/CAR). The new Network will also be capable of supporting additional CAR/SAM users, who may not be initial signatory members of the ICAO Agreement for the new network, whenever required by ICAO.

2.2 The TMG Ad-Hoc group presented the reviewed information received from different vendors to the Members during the MEVA/TMG/36 Meeting. It was concluded that:

- 1) Satellite-based networks are still an important technological solution
- 2) Technologies for ground networks that are available are a good option considering their bandwidth capacity, and
- 3) Both options should be carefully analyzed to structure Terms of reference (ToRs) integrating them.

2.3 The technical information received also suggested satellite operation in C-band to benefit from the current antenna and radio deployments. It should be noted that MEVA recently switched to the upper C-band range (4.0-4.2 GHz) to release bandwidth for 5G wireless technologies.

2.4 The RFI process did not identify any new technology that would require speeding up the CANSNET RFP process. Consequently, the TMG agreed to use the remaining optional years of the contract and extend MEVA III operation to 2025.

2.5 The following timelines were approved by the TMG for the development of the Project:

- 2021 - First Quarter
- ✓ RFI request completed
- 2021 - Second semester
- Start process to Development RFP (Request for proposal) (Definition of methodology for the new process)
- 2022 - First Semester
- Complete process for RFP (Document/RFP Second Semester 2022 Tender of the project)
- 2023 - First Semester
- Award of the project
- 2023 - Second semester
- Contract between members and the Provider
- 2024 - First Quarter
- Project implementation

2.6 The new Network must be able of establishing gateway connectivity to neighboring networks of the region. Area network connectivity may consist of fiber, VSAT and copper terrestrial networks. The physical interconnection between networks shall be accomplished at an authorized designated demarcation or at the (CAA) communications facility.

2.7 Please note that the existing interconnections through the MEVA Network between Central Caribbean and Eastern Caribbean will not be affected by the new CANSNET Network. Those interconnections will be included in the RFP as requirements and will continue unaffected.

3. Suggested actions

3.1 The meeting is invited to

- a) Take note of the information provided in this working paper; and
- b) provide support as required during transition to CANSNET.