



# ICAO

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

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WORKING PAPER

NACC/WG/09 — WP/17  
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**Ninth North American, Central American and Caribbean Working Group Meeting (NACC/WG/09)**  
Mexico City, Mexico, 30 September to 04 October 2024

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**Agenda Item 4: Follow-up to the NACC/WG 2023-2024 work plan**

**COMM TASK FORCE ACTIVITIES IN 2023-2024**

(Presented by the COMM/TF Rapporteur)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	
This Working paper tracks the activities undertaken by the COMM Task Force from August 2023 to September 2024.	
<b>Action:</b>	Suggested actions are presented in Section 3.
<i>Strategic Objectives:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Safety</li><li>• Air Navigation Capacity and Efficiency</li><li>• Economic Development of Air Transport</li><li>• Environmental Protection</li></ul>
<i>References:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Second Meeting of Rapporteurs of the North American, Central American and Caribbean Working Group (NACC/WG/RAP/2), Mexico City, Mexico, 28 to 31 March 2023</li><li>• Eighth North American, Central American and Caribbean Working Group Meeting (NACC/WG/8) ICAO NACC Regional Office, Mexico City, Mexico, 29 August to 1 September 2023</li><li>• Twenty-first Meeting of the Caribbean and South American Regions Planning and Implementation Group (GREPECAS/21), Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, 14 to 17 November 2023</li><li>• Following up on the activities of Project RLA22801 - Caribbean Air Navigation Services Network (CANSNET) (Online, 21 September 2023)</li><li>• Thirty-Ninth Meeting of the North American, Central American and Caribbean Working Group Communications Task Force (NACC/WG/COMM/TF/39), Mexico City, Mexico 7 to 10 May 2024</li><li>• Fortieth Meeting of the North American, Central American and Caribbean Working Group Communications Task Force (NACC/WG/COMM/TF/40), Mexico City, Mexico, 23 to 26 July 2024</li></ul>

## **1. Introduction**

1.1 In the period 2023-2024, the Communications Task Force of the North American, Central American and Caribbean Working Group focused its actions on support, preparation, and execution activities of the bidding process for Project RLA22801 'Caribbean Air Navigation Services Network (CANSNET), while keeping close attention to the performance and operation of the MEVA III network.

1.2 During the Thirty-Ninth Meeting of the North American, Central American and Caribbean Working Group Communications Task Force (NACC/WG/COMM/TF/39), the operation and performance of the MEVA III network during the last 12 months was analyzed. Likewise, the activities of the CANSNET Project were followed up on, and the results of its bidding and the planning of the activities of the schedule corresponding to its implementation were presented.

1.3 Based on the offer submitted by the winning company of Project RLA22801, during the Fortieth Meeting of the North American, Central American and Caribbean Working Group Communications Task Force (NACC/WG/COMM/TF/40) the technical, operational, administrative, and financial criteria that will serve as a basis for each State to carry out the individual CANSNET contract were agreed upon, taking advantage of the opportunity to clarify the particularities and individualities of the proposal for each State.

1.4 During the NACC/WG/RAP/02 Meeting, support was requested from the COMM Task Force in favour of DECISION NACC/WG/RAP/02/03 CREATION OF AN AD-HOC GROUP TO CONDUCT AN ANALYSIS OF THE ASBU ELEMENTS OF THE NAVIGATION AREA (NAVS). Following up on this Decision and considering the experience in this area of the members of the GT/COMM, during the MEVA/TMG/38 Meeting the Ad hoc NAV group was formed, with its main objective being the analysis in the region of the Navigation Systems (NAVS) element, belonging to the Technology thread of the Global Air Navigation Plan (GANP).

1.5 Eighth North American, Central American and Caribbean Working Group Meeting (NACC/WG/8), it was reported that, through the fifth session of its 222nd session, held on 1 March 2021, the Council adopted the first edition of the International Standards and Recommended Practices, Annex 10 — Aeronautical Telecommunications, Volume VI — Communication systems and procedures related to the C2 link of remotely piloted aircraft systems.

1.6 During the GREPECAS/21 Meeting, reviews of activities and improvements to the GREPECAS Work Program were presented, assessing their implementation status and proposing several adjustments/recommended actions.

## 2. Discussion

2.1 During the period under review, the COMM Task Force held two extraordinary meetings to monitor and support the tendering process for the CANSNET Project, paying special attention to the continuity of air navigation services once the current contract for the MEVA III network has concluded, until CANSNET is operational.

2.2 The NACC/WG/COMM/TF/39 Meeting analysed the report submitted by the MEVA III service provider regarding the performance of the network in the period 06/2023 – 05/2024, focusing the discussion on the most significant service interruptions. As a result, the need was identified to improve the procedure to be followed by the network members and Frequentis, when dealing with service interruptions, to make their solution more expeditious, effective, and efficient.

2.3 During the analysis of the network's performance over the past year, the NACC/WG/COMM/TF/39 Meeting addressed the situation of the MEVA III node in Colombia, Bogotá, responsible for supporting voice communications for ATS coordination between Colombia, in South America, and Jamaica, Curacao, and Panama, in the Caribbean. This node ceased to be part of the MEVA III network after the offer made by the provider, through ICAO, for the replacement of the SkyWAN modem that was damaged, with irreparable faults, after being moved to new facilities, as part of the scheduled service maintenance that took place from January 26 to February 3, 2023, was not accepted.

2.4 Considering the time remaining until CANSNET is in service, and the need of the CAR States to maintain their voice communications with Colombia in a safe, sustainable, and more economical, Decision NACC/WG/COMM/TF/39/02 was taken to study and implement a solution for the re-establishment of the voice links in question through the MEVA III and REDDIG nodes located in the city of Tegucigalpa, Honduras.

2.5 Based on Decision COMM/TF/EXT\_210923/01, following the COMM/TF request for proposals for the extension of MEVA III services from April 2025 until CANSNET is ready, during the NACC/WG/COMM/TF/39 meeting Frequentis offered all MEVA III members one-year extensions, covering the period from 1 April to 31 March 2026. All contracts are expected to be signed by 30 September 2024 at the latest.

2.6 The NACC/WG/COMM/TF/39 Meeting analysed in detail the reports of the technical and financial evaluation processes of the offers received during the tender process for Project RLA22801 'Caribbean Air Navigation Services Network (CANSNET)'. ICAO-CDI presented and argued the final report of the CANSNET tender process, based on the reports compiled at each stage of the evaluation of bids, and proceeded to recommend Frequentis as the winning company of the tender process for project RLA22801. This recommendation was accepted and gave rise to decision NACC/WG/COMM/39/04 'APPROVAL OF THE REPORT ON THE RESULTS OF THE CANSNET PROJECT BID PRESENTED BY ICAO'.

2.7 As a result of the analysis of the evaluation reports for the CANSNET offers and considering the need for the States/Organizations members of the project to have full knowledge of the technical and financial scope of the winning offer, the decision was made by NACC/WG/COMM/TF/39/03 to hold the NACC/WG/COMM/TF/40 Meeting. The members of CANSNET and the company that won the CANSNET tender would participate in this meeting, to cover all the details related to the project and prepare the bases for the contracting process of the corresponding States/Organizations.

2.8 As a result of the NACC/WG/COMM/TF/40 meeting, based on the detailed explanation and discussion of the winning supplier's offer, the members of CANSNET confirmed/updated the requested services and the contractual commercial terms that suit their States/Organizations for the implementation of the new network.

2.9 During the 2023-2024 period, for the analysis in the region of the Navigation Systems (NAVS) element, belonging to the Technology thread of the Global Air Navigation Plan (GANP), the Ad hoc NAV group carried out a survey of the navigation equipment in the region, seeing a 50% progress in the fulfilment of the proposed task.

2.10 Considering the repercussions of Annex 10, Volume VI on operational safety, economics, aviation security, the environment, and efficiency, the NACC/WG/8 Meeting adopted Decision NACC/WG/08/D/08 for the creation of a multidisciplinary group to develop and apply a regulatory model to the operations of unmanned aircraft in the region, counting on the Task Groups NACC/WG/COMM and NACC/WG/FREQ. During the NACC/WG/COMM/TF/39 Meeting, participants were asked for proposals to integrate the group in question, but no final decision was made in this regard during its sessions.

2.11 The improvements to the GREPECAS Work Programme, presented at the GREPECAS/21 Meeting, recommended several tasks for the CNS area. The following are under the responsibility of the COMM/TF:

- Support the implementation of Annex 10, Volume VI
- Support the completion of the implementation of the Air Traffic Services (ATS) Message Handling System (AMHS)

2.12 Taking into account the ToR of the NACC/WG/COMM, its work programme, the tasks assigned by the NACC/WG and the actions recommended to the GREPECAS work programme, presented at the GREPECAS/21 Meeting, the NACC/WG/COMM maintains as an Action Plan the activities listed in the **Appendix** to this Working Paper.

### **3. Suggested actions**

3.1 The Meeting is kindly invited to:

- a) Review the information presented in this Study Note; and
- b) take any other action deemed appropriate.

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**APPENDIX**  
**NACC/WG/COMM/TF Action Plan**

<b>Activities to be developed by the NACC/WG/COMM/TF</b>				
<b>ID</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Starts</b>	<b>Ends</b>	<b>Responsible</b>
1	Keep MEVA Members informed about the performance status and operating conditions of the MEVA III Network.	N/A	N/A	NACC/WG/COMM
2	Assist MEVA Members in coordinating the solution of problems that arise in the operation of the network, as well as in the implementation of services and spare parts.	N/A	N/A	NACC/WG/COMM
3	Study and implement technical/operational measures that may be agreed upon to improve the operation and implementation of MEVA III Network services, without impacting significant costs, investments and objectives of the Network.	N/A	N/A	NACC/WG/COMM
4	Maintain the MEVA III Network Contingency Procedures valid and up to date, taking into consideration the contingency plans of each MEVA Member and the Service Provider, following the General Contingency Plan of the CAR Region.	N/A	N/A	NACC/WG/COMM
5	Assist MEVA Members in completing the implementation of data and voice circuits, by the requirements set out in the CAR/SAM ANP.	N/A	N/A	NACC/WG/COMM
6	Study and propose solutions for the AFS connectivity of the MEVA III Network with other regional and national CAR/SAM networks.	N/A	N/A	NACC/WG/COMM
7	Maintain and validate before the MEVA Network Service Provider a manual of procedures on management, operation, and maintenance of the MEVA III Network telecommunications circuits.	N/A	N/A	NACC/WG/COMM
8	Transition MEVA III architecture and services to the new regional private aeronautical fixed services telecommunications network, CANSNET, as envisioned in the ICAO CNS/ATM concept, with a terrestrial Internet Protocol (IP) backbone, to ensure the network supports emerging requirements cost-effectively.	February 2020	March 2025	NACC/WG/COMM
8.1	Manage, support and facilitate the establishment of a new contract for the extension of MEVA III services from March 2025 until CANSNET is in operational service.	September 2024	December 2024	NACC/WG/COMM

Activities to be developed by the NACC/WG/COMM/TF				
ID	Description	Starts	Ends	Responsible
9	Determine and report to the NACC/WG the implementation status of the ASBU COMI (Communication Infrastructure) and COMS (ATS Communication Service) elements	February 2023	NACC/WG Annual Meeting	NACC/WG/COMM
10	Determine and report to the NACC/WG the implementation status of the ASBU NAVS (Navigation Systems) element	February 2023	NACC/WG Annual Meeting	NACC/WG/COMM Adhoc NAV Group
11	Manage and report to the NACC/WG the status of regional indicators established for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementation of the ICAO Meteorological Information Exchange Model (IWXXM)</li> <li>• Implementation of the Air Traffic Services (ATS) Message Handling System (AMHS)</li> </ul>	February 2023	NACC/WG Annual Meeting	NACC/WG/COMM
12	Develop a proposal that provides recommendations and reflects actual regional implementation activities of Annex 10, Volume VI, to develop and implement a regulatory model for unmanned aircraft operations in the region.	August 2023	26 October 2026	Adhoc Group fo the NACC/WG/COMM NACC/WG/FREQ experts