INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION
WESTERN AND CENTRAL AFRICAN OFFICE

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Seventeenth Meeting of AFI SATELLITE NETWORK MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
(SNMC/17)

(Monrovia, Liberia, 23-25 June 2009)
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Agenda Item 8   AFISNET modernization and integration with the other regional Networks in AFI

(Presented by ASECNA)

Summary

The Working calls for an urgent implementation of the Joint Technical Evaluation of the network by the SNMC states/organizations members in a cooperative approach by the adoption of a realistic planning of implementation

1. Background :

Since SNMC/14 the issue of technical audit and re-engineering of the AFISNET network is being discussed by the States/Organization members of AFISNET. The AFI Planning and Implementation Regional Group (APIRG/15) had called for AFISNET modernization and the high level coordination meeting of the AFISNET management committee held on 26th march 2008 at the ICAO Regional Office of Dakar allowed the SNMC States/Organisations to agree with the Terms of Reference of the Joint Technical Evaluation of the network.

The guidelines related to the implementation of the Joint Technical Evaluation including the choice of a sample of AFISNET nodes to be evaluated, the adoption of a work programme regarding the Joint Technical Evaluation and   the duration of this Joint technical Evaluation.

The last special AFI RAN 08 meeting also urged ICAO and States involved in AFISNET to follow–up on conclusion 16/07 of Satellite Management committee.

1) AFISNET member Administrations and Organizations should implement a joint technical evaluation of the network. In so doing, they should establish a team of qualified experts to:
a) conduct a comprehensive assessment of the network potential for current and future requirements and applications;
b) identify technical and operational deficiencies of the current network and propose shortterm solutions for their mitigation;
c) develop user requirements and basic specifications for the re-engineering of the network, to be submitted for formal approval by members;
d) participate in the request for proposals (RFP) process referred to in 2) hereunder; and
e) prepare a report for consideration by the next SNMC meeting;
2) a request for proposal (RFP) for upgrading/re-engineering of AFISNET, including technical, operational, financial and institutional aspects should be developed on the basis of a comprehensive assessment of current and future requirements and applications to be supported by the network; and
3) the ICAO Regional Office propose the timescales for the RFP process and related steps based on 1) above for consideration by the next SNMC meeting.

2. Discussions : Joint Technical evaluation of AFISNET

2.1 During the AFI RAN the AFISNET States members has informed the meeting that the joint technical evaluation would be completed by the end of March 2009. Up today the technical evaluation is not completed yet despite some individual initiatives undertaken by members. ASECNA has set up a formal internal committee for the evaluation of ASECNA AFISNET internal Network components. The group is composed by operational and technical experts as well and is committed to:

- Evaluate the technical and operational status of the Network;
- Suggest short term technical and operational continuous actions to overcome dysfunctions;
- Provide technical and operational data for the joint technical audit and re-engineering under ICAO WACAF auspices

2.2 So, ASECNA has purchased the improvement of the network by the modernisation of some essentials organs of the network such as base band equipments (modem, switch…), RF subsystem, and bandwidth management in order to allow the network to fit the performances requirements. In the continuity of these actions, ASECNA has brought its support to the others members in order to restore urgently several circuit recording low availabilities.

2.3 However these punctual actions must be consolidated in a global plan as required by the SNMC /16 conclusion 16/07 regarding a joint technical evaluation of the network whish became an urgent issue to be implemented as soon as possible. In so doing, ASECNA suggests the following schedule to be discussed by the meeting.

Team(*)	Centers to evaluate	Starting Date	Follow-up
1	Dakar Conakry Abidjan	15th August	TBD
2	Niamey Accra Lagos Ouagadougou	15th August	TBD
3	Brazzaville Douala Kano Libreville N'Djamena	15th August	TDB

(*) Each team could be made of two experts from each state/organization and the final report coordinated by ICAO to be available by September 2010.

3. Actions by the meeting

The meeting is invited to:

- Take note the in formations provided above;
- To agree on a planning of full operational implementation of the Joint technical Audit Evaluation no later than September 2009;
- To implement the audit of the AFISNET not later than 30th June 2010
- Take a suitable conclusion related to the subject.