



INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION
WESTERN AND CENTRAL AFRICA OFFICE

Twentieth Meeting of the AFI Satellite Network Management Committee
(SNMC/20)
(Abuja, Nigeria 08-12 October 2012)

Agenda Item 3: Implementation of Special AFIRAN meeting recommendations 6/18
(Presented by the secretariat)

AFISNET Technical Evaluation and Re-engineering

SUMMARY

The purpose of this paper is to analyze the status of implementation of AFI/RAN **Conclusion 6/18: AFISNET Technical Evaluation and re-engineering**, that calls for AFISNET Evaluation and re-engineering;

Reference:

Report of SP AFI RAN 8 Meeting

Reports of SNMC 16, 17, 18 & 19 meetings

Conclusions of the first meeting of the Joint Technical Evaluation and Re-engineering Team

Action by the meeting in paragraph 3

1. Introduction

The AFI RAN meeting held in Durban, South Africa from 24 to 29 November 2008 formulated **Conclusion 6/18: AFISNET Technical Evaluation and re-engineering**, that calls upon for AFISNET Evaluation and re-engineering and reads as follows:

Implementation of Conclusion 6/18: AFISNET Technical Evaluation and re-engineering:

That, as a matter of urgency, ICAO and States involved in AFISNET follow-up on Conclusion 16/07 of Satellite Network Management Committee (SNMC/16):

Conclusion 16/07: AFISNET technical evaluation and re-engineering project

That AFISNET member Administrations and Organizations undertake to implement a joint technical evaluation of the network in view of its re-engineering, in accordance with SNMC Conclusion 15/06. In this connection:

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 short term 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.

Since then, many actions have been undertaken by States/Organizations with ICAO WACAF support to implement this conclusion.

2. Discussion

2.1 During AFISNET 17th meeting (SNMC/ 17) held in Monrovia, Liberia 23-25 June 2009 some disposal was taken to implement this conclusion:

- Outstanding conclusions of SNMC 16 in the matter were considered;
- A Joint Technical Team for AFISNET Evaluation and Re-engineering has been established (Conc. 17/02) and conducted the evaluation exercise with its report submitted to SNMC/18.

2.2 SNMC/18 noted that the joint technical evaluation and re-engineering exercise was successfully conducted from 01 to 30 June 2010, as stated in its relevant report.

After discussing at length to find the best way to realize the re-engineering of the network based on the joint technical evaluation, the meeting concluded to update the mandate of the Joint Technical Team for AFISNET Evaluation and re-engineering and tasked it to pursue the technical study for the re-engineering with focus on AFISNET topology, components, base-band and satellite access, and bandwidth optimization.

2.3 This study has been initiated by ASECNA and circulated by the secretariat for inputs. The document on the technical study for the network re-engineering with focus on AFISNET topology, components, base-band, satellite access, and bandwidth optimization initiated by ASECNA was submitted to the last SNMC 19th meeting held in Accra (Ghana) from 14 to 18 November for consolidation before the call for tenders process in the view of AFISNET external audit.

The meeting set up a Technical Group composed with the core members and ATNS tasked to examine and amend the proposals on Action Plan, Funding Mechanisms and Grant Chart drafted and presented by ASECNA and adopted a final Action Plan and a Timescale as presented in **Appendix E** to the final report of SNMC/19.

SNMC/19 meeting formulated four conclusions that:

- adopted the timescale (*Conclusion 19/09*);
- defined the funding mechanism (*Conclusion 19/10*) and;
- tasked ASECNA to draft the Request for Proposals document to be circulated amongst the Joint Technical Team for comments and finalization through E-exchanges (*Conclusion 19/11*);
- proposed that a high level meeting of AFISNET Administrative Heads be organized before the end of January 2012 in order to validate and sign a MoU dealing with the different issues (sharing rule, funding, tender conditions, signing of the contract) (*Conclusion 19/12*).

2.4 The coordination by the secretariat encountered a low pace of feedback from AFISNET members;

In particular the inputs from members are still awaited to finalize the draft request for proposals (Ghana and Nigeria).

The successful conduct of this audit exercise needs to have the commitment at the highest level of SNMC members States/Organizations and the provision of sufficient resources to fund all the evaluation process (Coordinating meetings, participation in the audit exercise, funding consultant fees...).

The secretariat intends to coordinate the process based on Collaborative Decision Making (CDM) however the secretariat urged ASECNA to continue the development of the Terms of Reference of the technical Audit that was completed and transmitted on 06 August 2012.

The document is now transmitted to ICAO TCB for launching the call for tenders.

3. Actions by the meeting

The meeting is invited to:

- a) Take note of the above information
- b) Reschedule the time scale in the view of for AFISNET external evaluation and re-engineering
- c) Encourage SNMC States/Organizations to convene as a matter of urgency the high level Administration heads meeting in order to implement conclusions 6/18 of SP AFI RAN.

APPENDIX E

**Nineteenth meeting of the AFI Satellite Network Management Committee (SNMC/19)
(Accra, Ghana, 14–18 November 2011)**

ACTION PLAN FOR THE EXTERNAL AUDIT OF AFISNET

N°	TASKS	ACTORS	Date	REMARKS
1.	Validation of the Terms of reference	SNMC 19	17/11/ 2011	In order to keep the objective of the first quarter of 2012, the Terms was validated during SNMC/19 meeting
2.	Validation of the funding mechanism	MEMBER STATES	17/11/ 2011	Individual Administrations/organization to fund
3.	Validation of the Planning - Gantt Chart	MEMBERS STATES		
4.	Drafting and approval of the tender and contract document	Technical Team under ICAO WACAF Supervision	21/11/11-20/01/12	Core Member States with ASECNA in lead to draft the document. Approval by the JTC (Joint Technical Committee) .
5.	Request for proposals	– AFISNET core members under the coordination of ICAO	1/2/12-15//3/12	Each state to advertise the call for tender in its country
6.	Opening and evaluation of the Proposals	Joint technical team ICAO –	15/3/12-22/3/12	The evaluation to be carried out by the joint technical team in DAKAR at ICAO WACAF(one week)
7.	Award, negotiation and signing of the contract	ICAO on behalf of member States	2 weeks after evaluation (23/3-6/4/12)	Date may be adjusted to accommodate APIRG meeting
8.	Implementation of the Audit and supervision of the contract		23/4/-_22/7/12	