

SADIS COST RECOVERY ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (SCRAG)

ELEVENTH MEETING

(Paris, 4 November 2010)

**Agenda Item 3: Review of actual SADIS costs and cost shares for the period
1 January to 31 December 2009**

**Agenda Item 4: Review of estimated SADIS costs and cost shares for the period
1 January to 31 December 2011**

COMMENTARY ON THE DISCUSSIONS AT SADISOPSG/15 REGARDING OPTIONS TO REDUCE SADIS OPERATIONAL COSTS

(Presented by the United Kingdom)

REFERENCES

SCRAG/10 Report, Para 4.7
SADISOPSG/15 Report, Para 7.7

1. Introduction

1.1 The group will recall that at the SCRAG/10¹ meeting it was requested that the SADIS Service Provider and SADISOPSG determine possible savings in the coming years, with the aim of reducing costs of the years 2009 and 2010 by the portion of 20% of the estimated costs for those years.

2. Discussion

2.1 At the SADISOPSG/15² meeting the SADIS Provider State (and SADIS Technical Developments Team) presented papers outlining proposals for reductions in costs. These proposals considered short term and long term proposals, which can be briefly summarised as including:

¹ 6th November 2009, Paris, France.

² 26-28 May 2010, Paris, France.

2.1.1. With regard to changes in dissemination of data, it was agreed that it was appropriate to survey the SADIS user community for their opinions regarding the need for a satellite based distribution system from 2015. This would address changes in data dissemination methods, and could result in substantial reductions in costs, but is a long term action requiring endorsement, with no immediate savings.

2.1.2 The quality control/correction of OPMET data transmitted by SADIS was considered to be an essential requirement. Whilst it was noted that the SADIS Gateway function required a high degree of human intervention with a high cost base it was acknowledged that its removal would require individual users/States to apply their own quality control/correction processes at their own cost. Consequently, the proposal by the SADIS Provider State to eliminate some of the services and facilities provided at the SADIS Gateway (i.e. cessation of real-time monitoring, helpdesk and data searches; and the reduction of the configuration updates to twice per year only) which would have made an approximate 13% annual saving was not supported by the SADISOPSG/15 meeting due to the unacceptable detrimental impact that would result.

2.1.3 In the medium to long term, synchronization and close co-operation with other bodies with regard to data dissemination and communication would be necessary in order to identify mechanisms to improve the quality of OPMET data at source that may in the future reduce or remove the need for the SADIS Gateway Quality Control function.

2.2 Following a detailed study into the bandwidth requirements for transmission of GRIB2 WAFS Aviation Data over SADIS 2G, it had been determined that – with appropriate management and prioritisation of the GRIB2 transmission times – the retained SADIS 1G bandwidth could be relinquished, with an annual saving of approximately 30% (of satellite bandwidth costs). Some of the costs that had been included in both the 2009 and 2010 cost base will be removed from the cost base for 2011. These include £30,000 for GRIB2 over SADIS trial and £4,500 for SADIS 1G decommissioning (from 2009 cost base) as well as £67,000 for FTP enhancements, £3,000 for GRIB2 over SADIS trial and an under-recovery of £87,850 (from 2010 cost base). Altogether, these savings will amount to approximately 6% annually.

3. Conclusion

3.1 Following study by the SADIS Service Provider and the SADIS Technical Developments Team proposals to reduce costs by approximately 13% by removing some of the SADIS Gateway functions were not endorsed by SADISOPSG/15. Changes to dissemination methods (use of satellite) which could contribute substantial changes are longer term aspirations, and a survey of users will identify the expected needs of such distribution beyond 2015. Relinquishing the retained SADIS 1G bandwidth and lower costs in 2011 and 2012 compared with 2009 and 2010 due to reduced capital investment needs will result in a saving of approximately 6% annually. It may be appropriate to note for the record, the following draft decision:

Draft Decision 11/xx

That,

a) notwithstanding ongoing efforts to reduce costs where practicable, and across the entire SADIS service, it was recognized by SADISOPSG/15 that a centralized, quality control process (the SADIS Gateway), was an essential part of the SADIS Service, and was cost effective compared with the alternative of individual States applying quality control; and that

b) through other means, the SADIS Provider had identified savings of 6% annually (through satellite bandwidth savings, and staff cost reduction).

4. Action by the group

4.1 The group is invited to:

a) note the information in this paper, and

b) decide on the draft Decision proposed for the group's consideration.

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