

ASAP Report for 2007

France

a. Catalogue of ASAP vessels in 2007 (see Appendix 3):

b. Major challenges and difficulties:

On the unit ASFR1, in March, we changed the type of radiosondes and a part of the software; MODEM M2K2 took the place of MODEM GL98. On the two units in June we changed the type of balloons; KKS 300 took the place of TOTEX 300. With these changes, the performance is better.

On the ASFR2, from 01 August to 15 September, we had some problems with the operators. First the operator fell sick and had to stay in the Guadeloupe island. Thus, there was no operator on board for the way of return (7 to 13 august) and by consequence no launch. Then for the next campaign (23 August to 07 September) the new operator was not trained.

b. Other comments:

In September, we met the responsible of CMA-CGM to discuss about the two more ships and about training the operators. So in 2008, on the same line that ASFR1 and ASFR2, we program to install sounding system on the Fort St Georges and Fort Sainte Marie. We also program to train operators aboard during stopovers of the harbours of Dunkerque, Rouen and Le Havre. We hope to train 12 operators in 2008.

d. ASAP Performance						
Callsign	Total number of sondes launched	Number of TEMP SHIP transmitted	Number of relaunches	Average terminal sounding height (km)	Balloon size (gm)	Percentage on GTS (see note)
ASFR1	318	296	17	22,8	300	Toulouse: 96,3%
ASFR2	269	247	9	22.3	300	Toulouse : 96.8%

Percentage on the GTS is the ratio of reports received against reports transmitted, and is based upon reports received at a data centre or GTS insertion point (name)

Appendix 3. Catalogue of ships participating in ASAP in 2007.

France

French ASAP units operated during the year on 2 ships

Type of ship (1)	Ship name	Callsign	Comms method (2)	Windfind method / sonde type (3)	Launch method (4)	Launch height (5)	Area of operation (6)	ASAP unit ID No.
Merchant	Fort Saint Louis	ASFR1	Inmarsat C	GPS 3D Modem M2K2	Deck Launcher (fixed)	27	Atlantic	
Merchant	Fort Saint Pierre	ASFR2	Inmarsat C	GPS 3D Modem M2K2	Deck Launcher (fixed)	27	Atlantic	

(1) **Type of ship:** Merchant, research, supply
(2) **Comms method:** Inmarsat C or others
(3) **Windfind method / sonde type:** eg. GPS/Vaisala RS80-G, Loran/Vaisala RS80-L, VIZ GPS Mark II Microsonde, etc
(4) **Launch method:** deck launcher (portable), deck launcher (fixed), container (manual), container (semi automatic), other
(5) **Launch height:** height above sea level from where the sonde is released
(6) **Ocean area:** North Pacific, North Atlantic, Indian Ocean, variable

