ASAP Report for 2008 (France)

a. Catalogue of ASAP vessels in 2008 (see Appendix 3):

b. Major challenges and difficulties:

In September 2008, on the unit ASFR2 and in December on the unit ASFR1, we changed the type of radiosondes and a part of the software; MODEM M2K2 DC took the place of MODEM M2K2.

On ASFR1, from 28 January to 17 March, we experimented some difficulties: during one campaign (28 January to 22 February) a new operator took place and had to be trained before launch and during the next campaign, no operator was in situation to be able to launch.

b. Other comments:

In 2009, we program to install two other ships on the same line.

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	282	245	8	23,5	300	Toulouse: 94,7%						
ASFR2	314	296	4	22,8	300	Toulouse : 93,6%						

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)

(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 DC	Deck Launcher (fixed)	27 m	Atlantic	
Merchant	Fort Saint Pierre	ASFR2	Inmarsat C	GPS 3D Modem M2K2 DC	Deck Launcher (fixed)	27 m	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