

WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION

CBS/OPAG-IOS/ET-ABO-1/3.2

COMMISSION FOR BASIC SYSTEMS
OPEN PROGRAMME AREA GROUP
ON INTEGRATED OBSERVING SYSTEMS

06.IX.2013

EXPERT TEAM ON AIRCRAFT-BASED OBSERVING SYSTEMS
FIRST SESSION

ITEM: 3

Original: ENGLISH

Geneva, Switzerland, 10-13 September, 2013

STATUS OF THE AIRCRAFT-BASED OBSERVATIONS PROGRAMS

Reports on Developing Programs

(Submitted by the Secretariat and the Chair of ET-ABO)

SUMMARY AND PURPOSE OF DOCUMENT

To inform the Session about the results of the survey of AMDAR Focal Points on new AMDAR programme development.

ACTION PROPOSED

The Session is invited to note the contents of the document and to discuss the approach and strategy that ET-ABO might take to nurture and encourage aircraft-based observations programme development and AMDAR participation.

References

1. [AMDAR Panel Session 15 \(Nov 2013\), Document 4.1.1, Extension of Global AMDAR Coverage](#)
 2. [AMDAR Coverage & Targeting for Future Airline Recruitment](#)
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REPORTS ON DEVELOPING PROGRAMS

Survey of WMO AMDAR Focal Points

1. In the lead-up to the Expert Team session, WMO Member Focal Points on AMDAR were sent (initially sent 1 July 2013, with follow up request 27 August) by email, a brief survey to complete on the current activities and future plans and intentions related to AMDAR and aircraft-based observations (ABO) programme development. The survey that was sent is provided within [Annex I](#).
2. In response to this request, 7 completed surveys were received and, of these, 5 were from focal points from Members of the EUMETNET community, whose AMDAR development plans predominantly related to coordination with the E-AMDAR Programme. The combined response represents approximately only 15% of Members with AMDAR focal points (45). The survey responses with summary comments are available from the WMO ABO Projects and Collaborations site.
3. The following table summarises the survey responses that were received.

Member Country	Brief Summary Comment
Slovakia	No plans for AMDAR development in next 5-10 years
Hungary	Participation indirectly through E-AMDAR - no national plans.
France	Has priority for development of programmes with French OS countries.
South Africa	Provides information on South Africa's attempts to promote AMDAR participation in Africa (RA I).
Albania	No plans for development - will replace Focal Point shortly.
Croatia	Has conducted discussions with local air carrier Croatia airlines to become a member of E-AMDAR Programme.
Germany	Providing input to E-AMDAR, including WVSS-II implementation, with Lufthansa under the EUMETNET/E-AMDAR umbrella.

4. While the response to this survey is certainly limited and disappointing, it does provide a strong indication to the Team that there appears to be a lack of engagement, or perhaps a lack of awareness among Members regarding the WMO and CBS recommendations (CBS Evolution of the Global Observing System, EGOS-IP) to invest in AMDAR and ABO development so as to extend the coverage of AMDAR and ABO.
5. The Aircraft-Based Observations Programme (ABOP) is currently developing strategy and plans for enhancing and extending ABO in line with the EGOS-IP, however there appears to be a current need to determine a strategy and a process that might ensure the future engagement of WMO Members and their designated Focal Points in the implementation process, particularly for those Members of data-sparse areas and with national airlines that have been identified as high priority "target airlines" in the recently completed (February 2013) study on [AMDAR Coverage & Targeting for Future Airline Recruitment](#).
6. **It is recommended that:**
 1. ET-ABO compiles a list or table of WMO Members that would be responsible for high priority target airlines, based on the study.
 2. Letters are composed and sent to the relevant Permanent Representative to WMO or an existing AMDAR Focal Point in the list, by the Secretariat, requesting that they consider collaboration with the target airline towards AMDAR programme participation.

3. Responses to the correspondence and future activities arising from them should be documented within the AMDAR Regional Implementation Plans.

Other ABO Programme Developmental Activity

7. The most recent known and submitted information on other ABO and AMDAR programme development activities is available in AMDAR Panel Session 15 (Nov 2013), Document 4.1.1, Extension of Global AMDAR Coverage (Reference 1).

Mexico AMDAR Programme

8. The following provides a summary history and current status of the development of the Mexico AMDAR programme between the Mexican meteorological service (SMN) and Aeromexico, in which the WMO AMDAR Panel was involved:
 - The process for the contract with ARINC commenced not long after the Mexico Regional AMDAR Technical Workshop in late 2011 and based on agreement between Aeromexico and SMN to proceed with the implementation of an AMDAR programme. WMO was proposed to be the contract partner with ARINC because of the "seed" funding for the project from the USA within the AMDAR Trust Fund.
 - ARINC provided to WMO a contract proposal for ground-based reception, data processing and communications in May 2012.
 - Having refined the and negotiated a final proposed contract with ARINC, SO/ARO (Dean Lockett) requested that the WMO Procurement and Contracts Committee assess the contract based on a "Sole Supplier" procurement in July 2012. The PCC ruled that the service procurement had to be tested through approach to an alternative supplier.
 - A brief specification of requirements for the work and services was developed by WMO in consultation with NOAA/NWS and the alternative supplier was approached and requested to submit a response for a proposal with quotation by January 2013 (after 2 time extensions). The alternative supplier was unable to meet the requirements and declined to submit a proposal.
 - The WMO PCC again considered the proposed contract in late Jan 2012 and approved the process to finalise the contract for activation.
 - From Feb to May 2013 WMO and ARINC proceeded to finalise the terms and conditions for the contract, however this took longer than expected due to changes in staffing within ARINC.
 - Since June 2013, a legal issue has arisen that still requires resolution by WMO and ARINC.
 - ARINC has recently merged with Rockwell Collins Inc but this is not expected to have any direct bearing on the contract process.

ANNEX I Survey of AMDAR Focal Points for Input to CBS ET-ABO Session 1

This survey is requested to be completed by WMO AMDAR Focal Points for those countries that do not currently have an operational AMDAR program.

Please answer the following questions and **return by 21 August, 2013** to Dean Lockett, WMO Secretariat: dlockett@wmo.int

AMDAR Focal Point of	[Country]
Focal Point Name	[Name]
Focal Point Email Address	[Email address]
Are you replacing a previous WMO Focal Point	[Yes/No]

1. What endeavours, progress and activities have been undertaken towards AMDAR program development by your organization over the past 1 to 3 years?

2. Which national airlines have been contacted regarding participation in an AMDAR Program in the past 1 to 3 years?

3. Which national airlines have responded to the contact made?

4. What future plans does your country and organization have for AMDAR program development in the next 5 to 10 years?

5. What assistance would you like from WMO and CBS in relation to AMDAR Program Development?

6. Please provide any additional information or comments in relation to AMDAR Program development in your country or region.