

REPORT OF THE BULLETIN MANAGEMENT GROUP

TWENTY-NINETH MEETING

(Moscow, 12-14 June 2007)

List of participants

Mr. Roland Elentner	Austria
Mr. Herman Swinnen	Belgium
Mr. Wim Demol	Belgium
Mr. Johnny Funder	Denmark
Mr. Patrick Simon	France
Mr. Bernd Richter	Germany
Mrs. Annemiek den Uijl	Netherlands
Mr. John Syer	Norway
Mrs. Valentina Laletina	Russian Federation
Mrs. Olga Petrova	Russian Federation (Observer)
Mrs. Elena Glukhovskaya	Russian Federation (Observer)
Mr. Kevin Loy	UK (Rapporteur)
Mr. James Randall	UK
Mr. Laurentiu Brojboiu	Romania (Sec.)

0. AGENDA

1. Approval of the Agenda
2. Actions from previous meeting
3. Information from other groups IP 01, IP02
4. EUR OPMET Data Update procedure and data monitoring and reporting. WP02, WP03
 - i) Routine
 - ii) Non-routine
 - iii) Volcanic Ash
5. Addressing of EUR and Non-EUR OPMET data
6. Performance Indices WP5
7. SIGMET issues
8. Documentation
 - a) EUR OPMET Data Management Handbook WP04
 - i) Issue 1.03
 - ii) Appendices
 - b) PHP IP03
9. AOB WP06, IP04, IP05

Agenda Item 2: Actions from the previous meeting

The list of actions established at the end of BMG/28 was revised. The completed tasks mentioned below were erased from the list (see comments).

Ag.Item/BMG	Action item	Responsible	Target date
BMG25-4-4	Action plan for ASIA/PAC SIGMET improvement	Austria France UK	On-going
	Contact Italy, Turkey, Azerbaijan for missing data	MOTNE centres	
BMG25-6-4	Address missing data from MID region	Austria UK	On-going
BMG25-6-5	SADIS monitoring - NIL report recording	UK Netherlands	Closed
BMG25-8-1	Obtain details on SES concept from ICAO	K.Loy	BMG30
BMG 26-4-2	Check routing of LTBA data to Ukraine	M. Pichler R.Elentner	BMG 30
BMG 26-4-3	Address the Canadian wrong formatted requests	K. Loy	Completed
BMG 26-4-4	Address EIDB request (timeliness issue?)	UK	Completed
BMG 26-5-1	WPg 10 – OPMET Data Exchange Review	Austria France UK Netherlands Switzerland	BMG/29
BMG 26-6-2 BMG 27-7-3	EUR OPMET Hdbk amendment related to SIGMET format & validation criteria	P. Simon K. Loy J. Funder	BMG/30
BMG27-6-2	Calculation of PIs related to timeliness (based on Feb monitoring).	J. Randall H. Swinnen	BMG/29 BMG/30
BMG27-7-3	IROG London to check whether routing is in place for the new SIGMET headers	J. Randall	Completed
BMG27-8-1	Update BMG Analyser specification (Herman comments)	J. Randall	Completed
BMG27-8-2	Update the Handbook to v. 1.4 and submit to ICAO	R. Elentner	BMG/29
To be numbered BMG28-	To check with the ICAO Secretariat about the stages of papers submitted after Guillermo leaved.	K.Loy	BMG 29
BMG27-8-4	Keep hdbk amendment on the following BMG meetings agenda	K. Loy	On-going
BMG27-11-2	Submit papers 2 wks in advance to Rap and Sec For issuing 1 wk before the meeting	BMG	On-going
BMG 28-3-1	PI documentation update (monitor availability, not network performance)	J. Randall	BMG/29
BMG 28-4-1	Update additional data request form to cater for both Eur and non-Eur data	H. Swinnen	BMG/30
BMG 28-4-2	Contact ICAO Paris to obtain status of the current MET activities	K. Loy	BMG/29
BMG 28-4-3	Contact ICAO Montreal to check the SUG Annex 1 update	K. Loy	Completed
BMG 28-4-5	Verify the routing of NOBX bulletin in GTS	P. Simon H. Swinnen	BMG/29
BMG 28-4-6	Obtain ICAO doc. no.and translation in Russian	K. Loy	BMG/30
BMG 28-4-7	Perform VA tests	BMG	On-going
BMG 28-4-4 BMG 28-4-8	Review the BMG FP lists of: 1)registered OPMET bulletins not monitored and	RMCs NMCs	On-going

	2) not-registered OPMET routine observations/reports in registered bulletins		
BMG 28-5-1	Inform Azerbaijan on the OPMET Upd Proc	M. Pichler	Completed
BMG 28-5-2	Request adherence to the update procedure (METG)	K. Loy	METG/17
BMG 28-6-1	Update regularity threshold on a regular basis	J. Randall	On-going
BMG 28-6-2	Timeliness PI calculation based on Feb 2007 monitoring	J. Randall H. Swinnen	Completed
BMG 28-9-1	Amendment 74 TAF changes impact	BMG members K. Loy	BMG/29

Agenda Item 3: Information from other groups

IP01 – Eurocontrol Weather Exchange Model (WXXM) Workshop

The conclusions of the above mentioned Workshop were presented to the group. In principle, it was noted the main subject: an interest to develop a globally acceptable means of providing and exchanging meteorological data on a global basis to support ATM. As stated in the conclusions, there was a need for the development of a comprehensive weather exchange conceptual model (WXXM) and based on that a weather exchange model be derived, aimed to ensure interoperability between existing ATM systems.

It was noted by BMG that this development could have impact on current activities of the group, and that there was no sign that the BMG activities are aware of to Eurocontrol. It was expressed the need that BMG take part in such developments and current status of data exchange is taken into consideration.

Action BMG 29-3-1: The BMG Rapporteur to contact the METG/ATM WG Rapporteur and the ICAO Paris Met Secretary prior to the agenda item coming up and indicate during the meeting our concerns and willingness to contribute towards to work of the ATM WP on ICAO states behalf with Eurocontrol and the FAA regarding WXXM.

IP02 – WMO Expert Team Meeting (April 2007)

The group was informed about the discussions that took place at a WMO meeting of Expert Team on Data Representation and Codes, including the opinion that BUFR was more dedicated to the exchange of data via GTS between national meteorological services, while the XML format was more appropriate for use in the aviation community.

Agenda Item 4: EUR OPMET Data Update procedure and data monitoring and reporting

WP 2 – ODAG Availability Report

The results of the availability monitored by the three databanks were presented. It was noted that the use of the FASID Tables as reference (instead of SUG Annex 1) still has a negative effect on the statistics. Most probably, this was due to improper requirements. Investigations are to be made also for the differences between the databanks and for the data that has not been ever received. The derived work-packages, including the statistics results will be made available on the FTP servers:

Action BMG 29-4-1: DBs availability statistics and corresponding work-packages to be made available on the FTP servers. Investigations and further actions, as needed.

The group proposed that the graphs showing the development of OPMET data availability should contain also one more representation, of the data that are available on ALL three databases.

Action BMG 29-4-2: OPMET availability graphs shall represent also the availability in ALL three databases.

WP03 Report of the RQM Monitoring

A RQM monitoring exercise was carried on in May 2007 by all three databanks. There were mentioned the users identified as “heavy users” (the same as for the 2006 monitoring period). It was mentioned here that the problem has been addressed for Dublin and Calgary (the ICD has been already forwarded to NAVCANADA) and improvements are expected. With regard to the data requested by Taipei/China, there was agreed on the following action:

Action BMG 29-4-3: Brussels and Vienna Databanks will provide the list of the data requested by RCTPYZYX. UK should cross-check with ASIA/PAC the availability of these data.

IP04 Changes in the structure of MET Services – the Russian Federation

The paper presented a number of changes to the structure of the Russian MET Services, including the modifications of areas of responsibility, FIRs and MWOs designation. During the meeting, there were identified the necessary changes to the tables, with respect to the headers used for the SIGMET bulletins. These changes should be announced via the METNO procedure:

Action BMG 29-4-4: The Russian Federation will coordinate with the BMG FP to identify and announce the necessary changes to the SIGMET headers, for the 5th July AIRAC date.

Action BMG 29-4-5: The Russian Federation to inform ICAO Office Bangkok of the changes as they affect the ASIA/PAC region.

Action BMG 29-4-6: The Russian Federation should inform ICAO about the changes, through its METG representative. The affected ICAO documents shall be identified and updated accordingly.

IP05 AMDAR data applications for aeronautical meteorological services

The information on metadata received from the automated observing system in the form of AMDAR-coded automatic meteorological reports and relayed by the properly equipped aircraft was highlighted. It was noted that the amount of AMDAR reports distributed daily via the GTS is now equal to approximately 250 000. The necessity to use the AMDAR data for further enhancement of meteorological services was stressed at the Technical Conference of the Commission for Aeronautical Meteorology and the 13th CAeM session held on 21-22 November 2006 and on 23 November – 1 December 2006, accordingly. The meeting was informed that AMDAR data could be used in the similar manner as sensing data and in some cases could serve as an alternative option. With regard to the volume of meteorological data, it was noted that wind and temperature data was sufficient, but humidity data lacked due to the insufficient amount of aircraft equipped with special devices.

Agenda Item 5 - Addressing of EUR and Non-EUR OPMET data

WP 6 - Data Exchange Review

The paper reflected the outcome of the sub-group meeting in London (April 2007). There were presented the principles for the data collection and distribution, including the back-up procedures

in case of a centre/COM Centre outage. In terms of the time-scale of the implementation, it was estimated a necessary of 12-18 months, so that by the end of 2009 the new concept be operational. Caution will be needed to avoid the overlap with other actions (TDCF migration, for instance) that will be resource intensive.

The derived concept will be adjusted during a new meeting of the sub-group and the outcome will be presented in a WP to the METG/17.

Action BMG 29-5-1: The sub-group for the EUR OPMET Exchange Review will further develop the concept in August and a Working Paper related to that will be presented at METG/17.

Agenda Item 6 – Performance Indices

WP05 - Timeliness Metrics

The working paper was presenting the details of the timeliness metric calculation and the result of a first trial based on the Feb. 2007 monitoring data. There were noted the following deficiencies related to the calculation:

- Data coming from other regions (ASIA/PAC for instance) exceeds the 5 min. interval. The group proposed that for data coming from other regions, the time interval to be 10 minutes (as provided by ICAO Annex for >900 NM distances).
- The definition used for the timeliness of TAFs is not accurate and should be changed.

The following proposals were made:

Action BMG 29-6-1: The timeliness calculation method will be adjusted to take into account:

- Not to discard the retarded (RRx) and CCx messages
- Consider TAF timeliness definition to be
 - For FC, those received more than 30 min. before commencement of validity;
 - For FT, those received more than 6 hours before commencement of validity
- AMD TAF not taken into account

Based on that, new calculations shall be made and the description of the method along with these results shall be presented as a Working Paper to METG/17.

Agenda Item 8 - Documentation

WP04 – Monitoring Tool Specification Updates

The group was presented with the changes incorporated by the specification. All the monitoring centres confirmed the ability to use the updated version for the September monitoring. Netherlands will try to have it available for Sep 2007, but definitely for Feb. 2008 SADIS monitoring the updated version will be used.

Action BMG29-8-1: All centres involved in monitoring to update the monitoring tool and use the new version for the following monitoring exercises.

IP 03 - BMG EUR Problem Handling Procedure

The group was presented with the current status of the Problem Handling Procedure implementation. In June, the functional design acceptance and the Belgocontrol Internet access will be performed. After that, a test should be carried on. The progress report shall be presented to METG/17.

Action BMG 29-8-2: After the acceptance tests and the trial are performed by the WPkg task force members, the progress shall be included into the BMG report to METG/17.

EUR OPMET Handbook

Action BMG 29-8-3: After the assignment of a MET Officer in ICAO Paris Office, the BMG Rapporteur should contact him in order to address the issue of allocating an ICAO document reference number to the Handbook and publish it on the ICAO Website. Also to be taken into consideration the possibility of translating the handbook into Russian.

Agenda Item 9 – TAF Changes – Amendment 74 to Annex 3

WP 07 – Project Team TAF

The group was presented with the draft report of the Project Team TAF, along with some proposals on behalf of Sweden.

As ambiguity was identified within the proposed draft report, the BMG members were invited to investigate the impact of these changes to the operational activities.

Action BMG29-9-1: By the end of June 2007, the BMG members should investigate the impact of the proposed changes to the operational activities and prepare a consolidated point of view on the subject. The BMG Rapporteur will act as the focal point and a paper should be derived and presented to the Project Team for consideration and to METG/17.

Agenda Item 10 – Any other business

The group was informed on information from the SADISOPSG/12:

- The intentions of harmonisation of the SADIS and ISCS broadcasts
- That the official position of ICAO on the provision of OPMET data for non-compliant ICAO civil aerodromes (malformed CCCC location indicators) was that there is no obligation to provide this data via the AFS
- That ASIA/PAC is also interested in timeliness monitoring for their region.
- The group was informed on a particular case when new data was introduced but was not available on SADIS (GAMET bulletins from Azerbaijan). This was a consequence of not following the update procedure. Once again it was stressed the necessity of following the EUR OPMET update procedure for all the changes in the bulletin structure or addition/deletion of bulletins.

Papers for METG/17

1. The BMG Report, including:
 - An overview of the update procedure
 - Problem Handling Procedure current status
2. EUR OPMET Databanks activity report
3. Regularity and Availability Indices
4. Timeliness Metrics
5. Amendment 74 – TAF validity - Comments
6. SIGMET Monitoring (2 WPs):
 - Regular SIGMET Monitoring
 - VA SIGMET Monitoring

7. EUR OPMET Data Exchange Review

Dates and location of the next meetings.

The BMG/30 meeting was proposed for 16-18 October 2007 in Toulouse.

The sub-group "MOTNE Centres Review" meeting was proposed for 23-24 August in Vienna.

Papers

The comments to the draft report are expected until 30/06/2007. The version of the report including the amendments will be circulated for one more week and after that the final version will be endorsed.

For the next meeting all working papers should be submitted to the Rapporteur (Kevin.Loy@nats.co.uk) and to the Secretary (laurentiu.brojboiu@romatsa.ro) at least two weeks in advance. The secretary will number the papers accordingly and the complete bundle will be circulated to all members one week prior to the meeting.

List of actions

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BMG25-4-4	Action plan for ASIA/PAC SIGMET improvement	Austria France UK	On-going
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BMG 28-5-2	Request adherence to the update procedure (METG)	K. Loy	METG/17
BMG 28-6-1	Update regularity threshold on a regular basis	J. Randall	BMG/30
BMG 29-4-1	Provide DB data availability statistics and work packages	ODAG	June 2007
BMG 29-4-2	ALL DBs data availability representation	ODAG	June 2007
BMG 29-4-3	Compile list of ASIA/PAC missing data Cross check the availability	Austria, Belgium UK	BMG/30
BMG 29-4-4	METNO procedure for SIGMET bulletins affected by changes in Russian Federation	Russian Fed. BMG FP	July 2007
BMG 29-4-5	The Russian Federation to inform ICAO Office Bangkok of the changes as they affect the ASIA/PAC region.	Russian Fed	July 2007
BMG 29-4-6	The Russian Federation should inform ICAO about the changes, through its METG representative. The affected ICAO documents shall be identified and updated accordingly.	Russian Fed	METG/17
BMG 29-5-1	WPg 10 – OPMET Data Exchange Review	Austria France UK Netherlands Switzerland	METG/17
BMG 29-6-1	Timeliness procedure update & calculations	J. Randall	METG/17

BMG 29-8-1	Update & use the new vers. of the monitoring tool	Monitoring centres	Sep. 2007
BMG 29-8-2	Acceptance tests & trial of PHP	PHP sub-group	METG/17
BMG 29-8-3	Obtain ICAO doc. no. and translation into Russian of the Hdbk.	K. Loy	METG/17
BMG 28-9-1	Amendment 74 TAF changes impact	BMG members K. Loy	METG/17