

# REPORT OF THE DATA MANAGEMENT GROUP

## EIGHTH MEETING

*(De Bilt, 12-14 March 2013)*

The eighth meeting of the Data Management Group was held from 12 to 12 March 2013 in KNMI premises, De Bilt, and was attended by the following participants:

### List of participants

Mr. Michael Pichler	Austria
Mr. Wim Demol	Belgium
Mr. Johnny Funder	Denmark
Mr. Patrick Simon	France
Mrs. Annemiek den Uijl	Netherlands
Mr. Laurentiu Brojboiu	Romania (Secretary)
Mr. Edward Boorman	United Kingdom
Mr. Stuart Dingle	United Kingdom
Mr. Kevin Loy	United Kingdom (Chairman)
Mr. Herman Swinnen	Belgium
Christopher Keohan	ICAO Paris

### WP 1 – Adoption of the provisional agenda

In the opening of the meeting, the chairman of DMG, Mr. Kevin Loy informed the members that, due to internal restructuring process of NATS, he will move to another position within the organisation, and thus will not be able to participate any longer to DMG activities. This applies also to Ed Boorman, DMG member on behalf of UK. Nevertheless, he informed that NATS ensured resources for participating to DMG and that an other member was nominated to replace Ed, namely Mr. Stuart Dingle. Mr. Graham Easthope will replace Ed for the work on the RODC use cases

The DMG members took note with surprise on that and wanted to express their gratitude for the participation to DMG during all this years when, as a chairman, Mr. Loy has put all his expertise and been actively involved into the entire process of building the OPMET data exchange system RODEX.

Given this situation, the group proceeded than to name a new chairman for the group.

Mr. Patrick Simon, currently vice-chairman of the group, was asked to accept to take the lead and, following his acceptance, he was formally named as a chairman, with the agreement from the group. The nomination of a vice-chairman was postponed for one of the following DMG meetings.

After the meeting opening, the group discussed on the provisional agenda and adopted it as follows:

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|--|-----------|
| 1. Approval of the Agenda  |           |
| 2. Actions from previous meeting   | WP2       |
| 3. Information from other groups   | IP01      |
| 4. EUR OPMET Data Update procedure and data monitoring, reporting and addressing |           |
| i) Routine   | WP8, WP12 |
| ii) Non-routine (incl. SIGMET issues)  | WP4,5     |

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|------|--|-----------|
| iii) | Volcanic Ash<br>Giuseppe                 |           |
| iv)  | Addressing of EUR and Non-EUR OPMET data | WP7, WP10 |
| 5.   | Performance Indices                      | WP6, WP9  |
| 6.   | RODEX                                    | WP3       |
| 7.   | Documentation                            | IP02      |
|      | a) EUR OPMET Data Management Handbook    |           |
|      | b) PHP                                   | WP11      |
|      | c) Format of Rwy state group             |           |
| 8.   | WXXM                                     |           |
| 9.   | AOB                                      |           |
| 10.  | Next meeting                             |           |

### Agenda Item 3: Actions from the previous meeting

The group approved the DMG7 Report (WP02) and reviewed the status of the actions established at the DMG07 meeting. The completed tasks were erased from the list (highlighted in yellow; see comments).

### List of actions resulted after DMG06

Ag. Item/BMG	Action item	Responsible	Target date
DMG5-2-1	Approach DSNA for providing the AFTN addresses that NEM and VAA need to be sent to. Try to obtain missing information from Russian Federation with the help of Viktor Kourenkov, and from Germany by contacting DWD. Russian Federation information completed and global database updated. Will ask Germany the first week in July for addresses.	P.Simon C. Keohan	DMG08
DMG6-5-1	Common understanding of the PI data definition (what is NIL, no data, data) and document that with examples. Information on requirements will be sent to Annemiek by Ed Boorman	A. den Uijl A. Boff	
DMG6-5-2	will make the PI application accessible to the users via the Internet (by username and password) and will be adapted to indicate the headers of the bulletins	UK	DMG07
DMG6-5-3	Analyse timeliness indices for the possibility of adaptation and implementation within DMG web-based tool. If affirmative WP with the detailed description of PI's (definition and method of calculation) for METG 22.	A. Boff K. Loy	METG22
DMG6-6-1	Assess the impact of the timer values for validation. Inform DMG on the outcome. Work Package for addressing properly the validation issue.	K. Loy	DMG07
	<b>DMG07</b>		
DMG07-4-1:	Adapt the monitoring results - workbooks (include a RMK column for comments) and distribute them to the ROCs.	H. Swinnen	

DMG07-4-2	Investigate the deficiencies in the monitoring tables and take actions to rectify / comment (in the RMK column) on the outcome of the investigations. Collate the results into a single document to be presented next DMG meeting	ROCs H. Swinnen	DMG08
DMG07-4-3	Extract from the workbooks information on the data missing on SADIS and check against the historical database. Send results to P. Simon to confront for availability on WIFS. If necessary, the missing data will be addressed through PHP.	A. den Uijl P. Simon	
DMG07-4-5	Participate in the Sigmat monitoring exercise of ASIA/PAC and MID.	ROCs A. den Uijl	November 2012
DMG07-4-6	Report on the ASIA/PAC SIGMET Monitoring results at meeting	M. Pichler	DMG08
DMG07-4-7	Check the routing of NOBX bulletins to their area of responsibility	ROCs	DMG08
DMG07-5-1	Review the previous work on the compilation time and distribution, by taking into account the KPIs presented at METG22	DMG members	DMG08
DMG7-7-1	Make the necessary updates to the EUR Doc 018 – OPMET Handbook, according to the discussions during the DMG07 meeting	J. Funder	
DMG7-7-2	Revised proposal regarding the FASID 2a updates submitted to ICAO Montreal.	K. Loy	
DMG7-9-1	The three will stop sending data directly to Maastricht ACC. NOC Brussels will ensure the distribution of the VAA to Maastricht and will amend the SLA accordingly	ROCs Brussels	

### Agenda Item 3: Information from other groups

#### IP01 - EANPG54

C. Keohan, on behalf of the ICAO Paris, recalled the EANPG 54 meeting (Paris, 3-6 December 2012), and in particular, to the agreed Conclusions related to OPMET exchange. Following the Decision METG22/11 and EANPG 54/33, an inventory of GAMET, Low-level SigWx Charts and W/T Charts has been compiled. As of 22 Feb. 2013, 22 states have replied. The DMG members suggested that the inventory should be included into the EUR SIGMET and AIRMET Guide.

Action DMG08-3-1: C. Keohan will take actions to include the GAMET, LL SigWx and W/T charts inventory as an attachment to EUR Doc 014 - EUR SIGMET and AIRMET Guide.

Regarding the compliance of states to the use of the runway state group, it was considered useful to update the current results according to live data received starting from 16 February till the end of the period the rwy group is reported in Europe (approximately 1 May), in order to get a better sampling of compliance by States in light of the fact that a State letter on this matter was sent to EUR States on 18 December 2012.

Action DMG08-3-2: J. Funder will provide ICAO (C. Keohan) with the updated results of runway state usage based on the February – May 2013 data.

The DMG members were informed that the previous week, two meetings related to the ICAO Weather Exchange Model (IWXXM) took place in Eurocontrol premises (Brussels): The RODB meeting on IWXXM exchange, and the Meteorological Aeronautical Requirements and Information Project Team (MARIE-PT) meeting. The DMG members that participated to these meetings informed the group on the aspects that have been discussed, the tasks that have been derived and the questions that were raised during the meetings.

Recalling that DMG has previously expressed its support to IWXXM activities, it was mentioned that one of the derived tasks directly involved the DMG, namely to elaborate a draft Concept of Operations for IWXXM, along with Eurocontrol and WMO (TT-AvXML), and to be reviewed by MARIE-PT. The group agreed to address this subject on the corresponding agenda Item 8, and giving high priority on that for the following period.

#### **Agenda Item 4 - EUR OPMET Data Update procedure and data monitoring**

##### *WP06 – OPMET FASID Monitoring*

H. Swinnen presented to the group the results of the OPMET monitoring from February 2013. The corresponding tables were presented one by one to the group, which appreciated the high level of details that include - practically, all the relevant information was synthesised into the tables. It was considered, though, that the first actions to be taken should be the ones involving shortcomings in distribution of required data, and only after that seek improvements for the other data. Therefore, it was requested that these result should be refined to focus on the required data only.

Action DMG08-4-1: Hermann and Annemiek will investigate how the outcome from the monitoring should be in order to better depict the shortcomings in the distribution of the **required** data. A working paper on the subject will be presented next DMG.

Regarding data that was not formalised using the update procedure, it was presented a set of data that either were not announced but monitored, or announced but never monitored. The following action was agreed:

Action DMG08-4-2: Based on the METNO\_Action Workbook, the ROCs will investigate the data that needs addressing via the METNO procedure and take necessary actions to formalise those data.

##### *WP12 - Format Errors*

Annemiek presented to the group the updated results of a survey on the compliance of the messages format with the Annex 3 provisions. It was presented that there still are some reports from Finland that do not include the keyword METAR at the beginning of each individual report, while for the US bulletins the corresponding list was even bigger. Taking into account the importance of strict adherence to the Annex 3 format in view of the further conversion from TAC to XML, it was agreed the following:

Action DMG08-4-3: A. den Uijl will open a PHP ticket on the adherence to Annex 3 format and name ROC London as the problem handler.

#### *WP5 SIGMET Monitoring*

The group was presented by M. Pichler with the results of the SIGMET monitoring exercise that took place on 6-7 Feb 2013. The results from 28 EUR states (plus Singapore, Tokyo and Bangkok) were centralised and the deficiencies were split per ROC, noting the current status of addressing. It was mentioned that 7 test SIGMET messages from MID region were received as well, but some of them were rejected and then deleted by the operators. In the future, the test messages will be treated as real ones.

There was also a mention that Italy issues SIGMETs for both FIR and UIR using the same AHL. This could be a problem in case both are issued, as one may overwrite the other.

Action DMG08-4-4: C. Keohan will investigate whether the Italian FIRs and UIRs have the same boundaries. Based on that, a solution will be proposed to solve the above mentioned problem.

#### *WP4 ASIA/PAC Sigmet Monitoring*

The group was informed on the results of the SIGMET monitoring exercises in the ASIA/PAC and MID regions (7, 14, 21 Nov). The SIGMET monitoring focal point will send out EXCEL workbook to London, Toulouse and De Bilt which were filled in with the details of the reception of the advisories and SIGMET messages. Based on that, Ed Boorman, on behalf of ROC London has taken action to ensure that all SIGMET messages from the ASIA/PAC region are correctly distributed to the EUR region.

#### *WP7 NOBX Routing*

Following DMG07-4-7 action, Ed Boorman checked and informed the group that ROC London currently routing is as follows: NOBX98 to all NOCs in its AoR, and NOBX99 the same plus SADIS. It was considered necessary to have also the NOBX98 on SADIS:

Action DMG08-4-5: ROC London will ensure the routing of NOBX98 bulletins to SADIS.

France and Austria informed that the NOBX bulletins are also currently distributed to all states in their AoR.

#### *WP10 Actions following FASID Monitoring*

Based on the Sep. 2012 FASID Monitoring results, ROC London investigated and, where necessary, updated the routing tables. Requests for non-existing data were made via e-mail and through PHP (tickets 1042 and 1043).

It was pointed out that the majority of stations not monitored at EBBR were Non-FASID listed, and this data would need to be requested on a Bi-Lateral agreement. As mentioned under discussions on WP6 above, it is also requested that this data be omitted from future monitoring results.

Finally, it was mentioned that the majority of the updates/corrections were made prior or during the Feb monitoring period, and probably not all the results can be acknowledged for this exercise. It is expected that the Sep 2013 monitoring give a better conclusion on the current situation.

Regarding the issue of FT instead of FTs. P. Simon informed that Météo-France has announced the French CAA on the change, which should further be announced to ICAO. C. Keohan confirmed he received this notification.

### **Agenda Item 5 – Performance Indices**

### *WP6 - PI Application*

The DMG members were informed that a new, improved version of the PI application was already available on-line. The URL, username and password were communicated and group members had the possibility to log-in and check the new version of the application. During the session, some proposals/inquiries were already asked, like:

- to include a mention of the FASID version used in the calculation of the PI
- to check what happens in case of early submission
- could also these indices be applied to AFTN as well?

The group members were invited to take a closer look to the application and come up with comments and proposals.

Action DMG08-5-1: The DMG members to check in details the PI application and come up with comments/ suggestions / request for clarification, during the next period, and submit these by e-mail do S. Dingle.

Action DMG08-5-2: Annemiek and Ed will investigate on the metrics used for the PI application and detail that at the next DMG.

The following related actions were agreed:

Action DMG08-5-3: UK will prepare a WP for the next DMG on the trials to changing the timers used for validation.

Action DMG08-5-4: Stuart will join Annemiek and Herman in the monitoring sub-group of the DMG.

### *WP9 – METAR Timeliness*

The working paper presented by Wim Demol reflected some considerations on the choice of a threshold value for the METAR timeliness, taking into account the necessary filling time and transit time.

It was pointed out that currently the threshold used for METAR messages is of 5' and therefore the transit time is practically not taken into consideration. This will lead to the fact that bulletins compiled 5' after the observation time will not be considered "in-time", although perfectly compliant with Annex 3 requirements. Therefore, the following action was agreed:

Action DMG08-5-5: UK to revise the PI application to take into account a 1' period for the transit time, which will lead to a 5'+1'=6' value for METAR timeliness threshold. If possible, re-run the calculations and present the new results to the next DMG.

It was considered that for TAF bulletins the situation is even more complicated, since the threshold should be a minimum value before the entering into validity of the report. Currently, this value is 30 mins in Europe, while 60' for the other regions, so that the processing is more difficult. Proposals are expected from DMG members regarding the TAF timeliness threshold, either by e-mail or to be discussed during next DMG meeting. It should be noted that Amendment 76 to Annex 3 (Appendix 10 paragraph 2.1.2) applicable in November 2013 will remove the dependency on a regional air navigation agreement and simply read: TAF should be filed for transmission not earlier than one hour prior to the beginning of their validity period.

The DMG expressed the appreciation for the considerable effort that UK has made to provide such a valuable tool in measuring the key performance indices. It was agreed that in the future to investigate what information could be synthesised out of these results to be presented in the DMG report for METG.

## Agenda Item 6 – RODEX

### *WP3 - RODEX Backup Procedure*

The group was presented with the latest version of the RODEX back-up procedure. France informed that has verified with COM centre Bordeaux and routing is already in place. It was considered that the list of the re-compiled bulletins should not be included as-it-is into the procedure, as these may change in the future, but rather be referred as existent in the RODC.

Action DMG08-6-1: M. Pichler will remove the list of the recompiled bulletins and include instead a reference to the RODC for mentioning their existence.

### *RODC*

The group was informed that currently the catalogue is loaded – the databases are populated with data. The catalogue is also available for on-line access, so that trials on the user interface can be performed by using real data.

UK informed that a new person has been assigned to take responsibility for the RODC interface, Mr. Graham Easthope. He will receive all the information on what has been done so far in terms of database, use cases and interface design. Laurentiu will provide information on what he has done so far for defining the interface and functionality.

Action DMG08-6-2: UK and Denmark will produce a WP for the next DMG to inform on the current status of implementation of RODC.

## Agenda Item 7 – Documentation. PHP

### *IP2 – OPMET Monitoring Tools - Evaluation*

H. Swinnen presented to the group the overview evaluation of the OPMET Monitoring tools in use at the EUR OPMET Data monitoring Centres, against the EUR OPMET Data Monitoring Tool Specification, version 2.5. The review was based on the February 2013 monitoring exercise. After discussions, a number of proposals were made:

Action DMG 08-7-1: H. Swinnen will update the document to take into account the followings:

- Exclude column ED (with results from Germany, as it no longer participates in monitoring)
- Remove “TAF validity period OLD” row.
- Include mention of mandatory / non mandatory fields.

Action DMG08-7-2: P. Simon will check and confirm on the following issues related to the monitoring: title of columns, report BBB, FIR name.

### *WP11 PHP Report*

A. den Uijl (PHP Manager) presented to the meeting the PHP Progress Report. An overview of the problems addressed so far through the procedure and their current status was analysed by the group. Some tickets were closed, while others are logged and need further actions.

Regarding the ticket 1022 – SIGMET messages from Canada, C. Keohan informed the group that Canada is currently making efforts to align to the international standards for the messages that are exchanged internationally.

Regarding tickets 1033 and 1035 – missing reports during Feb. 2012 monitoring, the group was informed that ROC London has taken corrective actions and it was agreed that these tickets need to be closed. The results of the corrective actions could be checked against the Feb. 2013 monitoring, but they may not be complete, as some of the actions were made during the

monitoring period as well. It was then concluded that these results should be validated during the September 2014 monitoring exercise.

Regarding ticket 1031 – misrouted ORBI bulletins (sent direct to EHDB), C. Keohan offered to contact responsible persons from Iraq in order to solve this issue.

### **Agenda item 8: WXXM**

The group recalled that one of the conclusions of the RODB meeting on IWXXM asked DMG to elaborate a draft Concept of Operations for WXXM, together with Eurocontrol and WMO (TT-AvXML), which will be reviewed by PT/MARIE.

During the final day of the DMG meeting, the members discussed and agreed on a skeleton of the ConOps document. The resulting document needs to be reviewed by all the participants and then be submitted to C. Keohan – ICAO Paris for further addressing.

It was also agreed that a new work package for DMG should be opened on this subject. The Work Package Manager will be Patrick Simon.

Depending on the answer received from ICAO Paris, the DMG members should elaborate on the subject and then bring up the results to be discussed at a meeting prior to the next DMG – preferably the day before starting DMG09. The draft document was already named as WP02 for DMG09.

### **Agenda item 9: Any other business**

#### *PHP Application upgrade*

H. Swinnen informed that he discussed with the development team of the application (Belgocontrol) and that there is a planned upgrade of the application, which concerns mainly the look of the interface and not the main functions. It was also mentioned that this could be a good opportunity for reviewing the accounts – possibly to ensure one account per NOC. It was mentioned that this needs investigation on the licensing policy and will therefore re-discussed during the next DMG.

Finally, it was mentioned that Mr. Ed Boorman will move to a new position within NATS and therefore will be replaced as a DMG member. The chairman, in the name of the group, took the opportunity to express the appreciation for the work that Ed has done as a DMG member during all these years and wished him good luck with his new job.

- Dates and location of the next meetings

DMG09: Edinburgh 19-21 June 2013, plus one possible extra day 18<sup>th</sup> on XML transition

DMG10: Copenhagen 22-24 October 2013.



**List of actions resulting after DMG08**

Ag. Item/BMG	Action item	Responsible	Target date
DMG5-2-1	Approach DSNA for providing the AFTN addresses that NEM and VAA need to be sent to. Try to obtain missing information from Russian Federation with the help of Viktor Kourenkov, and from Germany by contacting DWD. Russian Federation information completed and global database updated. Will ask Germany the first week in July for addresses.	P.Simon C. Keohan	DMG08
DMG6-5-1	Common understanding of the PI data definition (what is NIL, no data, data) and document that with examples. Information on requirements will be sent to Annemiek by Ed Boorman	A. den Uijl A. Boff	
DMG6-5-3	Analyse timeliness indices for the possibility of adaptation and implementation within DMG web-based tool. If affirmative WP with the detailed description of PI's (definition and method of calculation) for METG 22.	A. Boff K. Loy	METG22
DMG6-6-1	Assess the impact of the timer values for validation. Inform DMG on the outcome. Work Package for addressing properly the validation issue.	K. Loy	DMG07
	<b>DMG07</b>		
DMG07-4-3	Extract from the workbooks information on the data missing on SADIS and check against the historical database. Send results to P. Simon to confront for availability on WIFS. If necessary, the missing data will be addressed through PHP.	A. den Uijl P. Simon	
	<b>DMG08</b>		
DMG08-3-1	Include the GAMET, LL SigWx and W/T charts inventory as an attachment to EUR Doc 014 - EUR SIGMET and AIRMET Guide.	C. Keohan	
DMG08-3-2	Provide ICAO (C. Keohan) with the results of runway state usage based on the latest monitoring exercise (February 2013)	J. Funder	
DMG08-4-1	Investigate how the outcome from the monitoring should be in order to better depict the shortcomings in the distribution of the <b>required</b> data. WP next DMG	A. den Uijl H. Swinnen	DMG09
DMG08-4-2	Based on the METNO_Action Workbook, the ROCs will investigate the data that needs addressing via the METNO procedure and take necessary actions to formalise those data.	ROCs	DMG09
DMG08-4-3	Open a PHP ticket on the adherence to Annex 3 format and name ROC London as the problem handler	A. den Uijl	DMG09
DMG08-4-4	Investigate whether the Italian FIRs and UIRs have the	C. Keohan	DMG09

	same boundaries. Based on that, a solution will be proposed to solve the above mentioned problem		
DMG08-4-5	Ensure the routing of NOBX98 bulletins to SADIS	ROC London	DMG09
DMG08-5-1	Check in detail the PI application and come up with comments/ suggestions / request for clarification, and submit these by e-mail do S. Dingle	DMG members	DMG09
DMG08-5-2	Investigate on the metrics used for the PI application and detail that at the next DMG	A. den Uijl Ed Boorman	DMG09
DMG08-5-3	Prepare a WP for the next DMG on the trials to changing the timers used for validation	S. Dingle	DMG09
DMG08-5-4	Stuart will join Annemiek and Herman in the monitoring sub-group of the DMG		
DMG08-5-5	Revise the PI application to take into account a 1' period for the transit time, which will lead to a 5'+1'=6' value for METAR timeliness threshold. If possible, re-run the calculations and present the new results to the next DMG	UK	DMG09
DMG08-6-1	Update the RODEX Back-up procedure to remove the list of the recompiled bulletins and include instead a reference to the RODC for mentioning their existence	M. Pichler	DMG09
DMG08-6-2	Produce a WP for the next DMG to inform on the current status of implementation of RODC	S. Dingle J. Funder	DMG09
DMG 08-7-1	Update the document to take into account the followings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Exclude column ED (with results from Germany, as it no longer participates in monitoring)</li> <li>- Remove "TAF validity period OLD" row.</li> <li>- Include mention of mandatory / non mandatory fields.</li> </ul>	H. Swinnen	DMG09
DMG08-7-2	Check and confirm on the following issues related to the monitoring tool: title of columns, report BBB, FIR name	P. Simon	