

## REPORT OF THE DATA MANAGEMENT GROUP

### NINTH MEETING

*(Edinburgh, 18-21 June 2013)*

The ninth meeting of the Data Management Group was held from 19 to 21 June 2013 in NATS premises, Edinburgh, and was attended by the following participants:

#### List of participants

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

The DMG meeting was preceded on 18 June 2013 by a session related to the development of the draft IWXXM Concept of Operations, as tasked by METG. At this session were also present the following experts:

Mr. Jeremy Tandy	UK (UKMO)
Mr. Mike Williamson	UK (NATS)

During this session, various aspects related to IWXXM transition were discussed. First of all, there were mentioned the stages of implementation, as will be reflected into the ICAO regulations, specifically the Annex 3 future amendments:

- Amd 76 permits,
- Amd 77 recommends,
- Amd 78 mandates

the exchange of OPMET data in XML format. The various benefits of the new format were also mentioned. It was agreed that, for a successful implementation, the transition should begin based on the current mechanisms of data collection and distribution existent in the different ICAO regions. For that, it was recommendable that as far as practicable the current addressing of data by the abbreviated header of the bulletins be continued, in form of filenames (with the corresponding extension to indicate the data type - XML - and the compression used). The current compilation of reports into bulletins shall also be kept.

There were identified the possible phases of the transition process, and the pre-requisites that need to be in place at each of these stages.

One of the main such pre-requisite was the availability of the AMHS links between the centres, as this was the agreed means of exchanging OPMET data in XML format.

There was appreciation for the participation of the experts from outside the DMG, and it was considered that for future work there may be necessary their support, either by direct participation to the meetings or by cooperative work by correspondence.

The resulting draft skeleton of the Concept of Operations was further discussed during the final day of the DMG meeting and the results are presented later in this report.

### WP 1 – Adoption of the provisional agenda

In the opening of the meeting, Graham Easthope was introduced to the group members. It was mentioned that for the DMG meetings abroad only Stuart Dingle will participate, though, on behalf of UK.

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

- |     |   |                |
|-----|---|----------------|
| 1.  | Approval of the Agenda  |                |
| 2.  | Actions from previous meeting   | WP02           |
| 3.  | Information from other groups   |                |
| 4.  | EUR OPMET Data Update procedure and data monitoring, reporting and addressing |                |
|     | i) Routine  | WP03, WP9      |
|     | ii) Non-routine (incl. SIGMET issues)   |                |
|     | iii) Volcanic Ash   |                |
|     | iv) Addressing of EUR and Non-EUR OPMET data                                  |                |
| 5.  | Performance Indices   | WP04, WP6, WP7 |
| 6.  | RODEX   | WP05           |
| 7.  | Documentation   |                |
|     | a) EUR OPMET Data Management Handbook   |                |
|     | b) PHP  | WP08           |
|     | c) Format of Rwy state group  | IP01           |
| 8.  | WXXM  |                |
| 9.  | AOB   |                |
| 10. | Next meeting  |                |

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

The group approved the DMG8 Report (WP02) and reviewed the status of the actions established at the DMG08 meeting. The completed tasks were erased from the list (highlighted in yellow; see comments).

### List of actions resulted 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 S. Dingle	
DMG6-5-3	Analyse timeliness indices for the possibility of adaptation and implementation within DMG web-based tool.	A. Boff	METG22

	If affirmative WP with the detailed description of PI's (definition and method of calculation) for METG 22.	K. Loy	
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 same boundaries. Based on that, a solution will be proposed to solve the above mentioned problem	C. Keohan	DMG09
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	S. Dingle	DMG09

	status of implementation of RODC	J. Funder	
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	

The action DMG07-4-3 was deleted. For the September 2013 monitoring, it was agreed though to perform another comparison between SADIS and WIFS, with the intention to ensure data present on WIFS is also available on SADIS.

Action DMG9-2-1: Patrick will perform another comparison between SADIS and WIFS during the Sep. 2013 monitoring and the results will be provided to Stuart to take action (as the responsible IROG for US). The outcome will be presented to DMG10.

Action DMG9-2-2: Stuart will analyse the bulletins containing European data that were re-compiled in the US and sent back to Europe. Take action to request US not to send those bulletins back.

### **Agenda Item 3: Information from other groups**

The DMG members were informed about the main subjects related to their activities that were discussed during meetings of other ICAO groups.

Stuart Dingle informed about the AFSG meeting, pointing out that US made a presentation on SWIM. It was noted that about the same concerns were raised, for instance on the inter-regional exchange. It was also mentioned that AMHS will also be used in the US for OPMET data exchange in XML format, the first formal project on AMHS.

Patrick Simon informed the group on the discussions during the SADISOPSG meeting. Of particular interest were mentioned:

- Special AIREPs on SADIS. For the European data, already in place, while data from the other regions suffers from missing inter-regional exchange.
- The SADIS broadcast was announced to stop in 2019, when only the Secure SADIS Ftp will remain available. Particular concern was expressed in this case by the group with respect to the PI calculation, as the OPMET data is bundled in files at 5 mins interval on the ftp site. It was noted that for the WIFS, the https protocol is used instead, and the OPMET data is updated on a 1 min interval - Patrick needs to check and confirm to the group.

Cristopher Keohan informed the group on the BMG meeting in the MID region.

Volcanic Ash exercises: the next exercise will take place on 23 oct. 2013, while the first exercise in 2014 will be based on an eruption of Etna (Italy), with CE Europe affected.

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

*WP03 – RQM Monitoring*

Wim Demol informed the group about the results of the requests monitoring that took place during the 12-14 May 2013. It was noted that the number of requests has decreased significantly since last monitoring, mainly as a result of the disappearance of the “heavy user” Taipei.

As a continuation of the improvement process, there were agreed the following actions:

Action DMG09-4-1: Michael and Stuart will investigate possible solving of the requests coming from Urumqi / China (a fixed list of METAR / TAF reports). Stuart will co-ordinate with the contacts in Singapore on this matter.

Action DMG09-4-2: Michael will provide Chris with the details of the requests coming from the MID region, in order to be raised at the next BMG meeting o the MID region next week.

#### *WP09 – Update of the Monitoring Tables*

Annemiek presented to the group the updated presentations of the OPMET Data Monitoring results. The general purpose of these is to highlight possible missing data and routeing deficiencies. The current update to the presentation form has been prepared with the aim to have a more easy-to-use table by member /area of responsibility.

It was agreed that Herman, as DMG focal point, will continue to collect the monitoring results and derive the same working tables as previously, while Annemiek will derive the new tables, grouped per ROC / SADIS / Databank. Repeating problems will be easier to spot and be reported to METG.

Action DMG09-4-3: A. den Uijl will derive the new tables based on the monitoring results in September 2013 and address the problems via PHP to the responsible ROCs.

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

##### *WP4 Timers*

The group was presented by S. Dingle with the comments resulted from an analysis performed by UK on the proposed timer values. It was agreed the following:

Action DMG09-4-4: Based on the proposed timers values, apply the corresponding settings on the NATS test system and monitor what data is rejected (starting mid July). The results will be presented in a WP to the next DMG meeting.

##### *WP6 Performance Indices Tool (1)*

Following an action established during the previous meeting, Annemiek and Ed investigated the PI tool’s handling of NIL reports. The results show that the majority of the faults appear to have been caused by the handling of NIL reports by the KNMI monitoring tool.

Action DMG09-4-5: KNMI will update its monitoring tool in order to properly handle the NIL reports.

The following two actions were also agreed by the group:

Action DMG09-4-6: Stuart will verify whether at the SADIS gateway the keywords METAR or TAF are automatically included in a report when they are missing.

Action DMG09-4-7: In the calculation of the PIs, a NIL report shall always be recorded as “not received”. That needs to be highlighted to the states in the DMG report for the next METG meeting.

### *WP7 Performance Indices Tool (2)*

Following the implementation of the SADIS PI tool several observations and questions were raised after the DMG8 meeting. S. Dingle presented the status of the actions, as some of the problems were already fixed and some still needed discussion.

Regarding the provision in the EUR ANP for 30' in advance limit for distributing TAF bulletins, C. Keohan informed that, in order to harmonise the regional plans, this provision will be excluded in the future. With the upcoming Amd. 76 Annex 3, the only provision is that a TAF can be issued no earlier than one hour prior entering the validity period. It was noted thus that there will be no limit how late a TAF can be issued.

Action DMG09-4-8: P. Simon will present a WP for the next METG meeting on the subject that there is a missing provision on the time limit for issuing TAFs.

### **Agenda Item 7 – Documentation**

#### *IP01 RWY state group*

J. Funder presented to the group the results of a monitoring performed during 12.03-23.04.2013 related to the usage of the runway state group in the METAR messages. There was noted that the number of incorrect usage (old style) has decreased from 50 to 35%. C. Keohan will present the results on the RWY state group usage to the next METG.

There was agreed to perform one more monitoring during the coming winter season.

Action DMG09-7-1: J. Funder will repeat the evaluation on the rwy state usage for one more cycle, during the next winter season, and present the results to DMG11.

#### *WP8 –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. Following the confirmation during the meeting, some tickets were closed, while others are logged and need further actions.

Herman informed the group that an upgrade of the ticketing application is planned for the next period, but that should happen seamless, with no impact on the users side.

### **Agenda item 6: RODEX**

#### *WP5 – RODC progress report*

The group discussed the current status of the progress for the RODC. Several issues were brought to attention, like the following:

- It is very important that the bulletins circulated consist of same type of data – required or not required (FASID). In order to depict the bulletins that do not comply with this rule, an analysis of the monitoring results should be performed. Following that, the corresponding states will be informed to arrange for separation of data into new bulletins.

Action DMG09-6-1: Herman will analyse the monitoring tables to depict those bulletins containing a mixture of required and not required aerodromes and present a WP to the next DMG.

- Regarding the problem with the routing table containing wildcards, ROC London informed that the routing table had been already updated and no longer contained wildcards.

Action DMG09-6-2: Stuart will provide an updated version of ROC London routing table to Johnny in order to include it in the RODC application.

- Regarding the situations when updating the FASID the new report is monitored in two or more bulletins, it was considered that there is a need to inform states on the correct usage of the AHL in order to reduce duplication, and therefore it was agreed the following:

Action DMG09-6-3: The three ROCs will prepare a common WP for the next METG in order to explain the best practices for routing policy of OPMET data in Europe.

- It was also considered necessary to differentiate the OPMET data by its source (AFTN or GTS) and consider only the AFTN data in the monitoring results.

Action DMG09-6-4: Patrick and Wim will investigate whether is possible to depict required data that is received via GTS only and not on AFTN. Herman will provide support (differentiate between DB monitoring and AFTN).

- It was considered necessary to have a listing of the headers used for the SIGMET bulletins. For EUR Region that is available in the EUR Sigmet Guide, but the information from other regions is missing. In order to address that, the following action was agreed:

Action DMG09-6-5: Annemiek will contact C. Keohan to seek advice on obtaining an inventory of the headers used for the SIGMET bulletins from all the ICAO regions. In addition, will compile such an inventory based on what has been received so far by Netherlands.

- Regarding the backup procedures, was agreed that:

Action DMG09-6-6: Stuart will prepare a WP for the next DMG on the NOC back-up procedures – guidelines to be followed when a NOC is not able to distribute its data via normal means.

- Data circulated on bi-lateral agreement

Action DMG09-6-7: Wim will prepare a WP for the next DMG on the results of investigating the cases when ROCs remove routing of bulletins containing data circulated on bi-lateral agreement (data beyond FASID requirements).

Regarding the further development of the RODC, in particular the GUI, Stuart informed that due to the latest changes operated in NATS, at this moment there are not available resources to proceed for the GUI development. He mentioned that UK still supports the project, but wanted to point that acquiring the necessary resources for the RODC project development can take considerable time. Under these circumstances, it was agreed that the DMG members will analyse possible ways to progress. Co-ordination will be done by e-mail between Johnny, Graham, Laurentiu. As the RODC Work Package Manager, Johnny will provide input to the next DMG meeting on the subject.

Action DMG09-6-8: Johnny will coordinate discussions on the possible progress with the RODC GUI development and inform DMG members during next DMG meeting.

## **Agenda item 8: WXXM**

The draft concept of operations for the IWXXM was further updated by the DMG. It was considered necessary to have defined a set of use cases.

Action DMG09-8-1: Stuart will prepare a draft of possible use cases for IWXXM concept and distribute them to the DMG members before the next IWXXM ConOps meeting. Possible use cases include:

- Data creation
- Data conversion
- Data translation
- Inter-regional exchange of data

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

*Election of vice-chairman of the group.*

Mrs. Annemiek den Uijl was proposed as the vice-chairperson and that was fully agreed by the DMG members.

*Papers for the METG23 meeting*

- PHP report + consolidated summary (Annemiek)
- Time limit for TAF issue missing from regulations (Patrick)
- IWXXM ConOps - work progress (Patrick, Chris)
- RODC Progress (Johnny)
- METNO changes included as Attachment to the DMG Report (Herman)
- Best practices for OPMET routing in Europe (The three IROGs)

It was agreed that the papers be prepared not later than 8<sup>th</sup> July.

*Dates and location of the next meetings*

DMG10: Copenhagen 22-24 October 2013 (possible extra session on XML ConOps on first half of 22 oct).

DMG11: 18-20 March Brussels



**List of actions resulting after DMG08**

Ag. Item/BMG	Action item	Responsible	Target date
DMG5-2-1	Try to obtain missing information 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 S. Dingle	
	<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	
DMG08-4-2	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
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
	<b>DMG09</b>		
DMG08-0-1	Include title for columns in the monitoring results	P. Simon	DMG10
DMG9-2-1	Will perform another comparison between SADIS and WIFS during the Sep. 2013 monitoring and the results will be provided to Stuart to take action (as the responsible IROG for US).	P. Simon	DMG10
DMG9-2-2	Analyse the bulletins containing European data that were re-compiled in the US and sent back to Europe. Take action to request US not to send those bulletins back.	S. Dingle	
DMG09-4-1	Investigate possible solving of the requests coming from Urumqi / China (a fixed list of METAR / TAF reports). Stuart will co-ordinate with the contacts in Singapore on this matter.	M. Pichler S. Dingle	
DMG09-4-2	Provide Chris with the details of the requests coming from the MID region, in order to be raised at the next BMG meeting o the MID region next week.	M. Pichler	
DMG09-4-3	Derive the new tables based on the monitoring results in September 2013 and address the problems via PHP to the responsible ROCs.	A. den Uijl	DMG10

DMG09-4-4	Based on the proposed timers values, apply the corresponding settings on the NATS test system and monitor what data is rejected (starting mid July).	S. Dingle	DMG10
DMG09-4-5	Update the KNMI monitoring tool in order to properly handle the NIL reports	A. den Uijl	DMG10
DMG09-4-6	Verify whether at the SADIS gateway the keywords METAR or TAF are automatically included in a report when they are missing.	S. Dingle	
DMG09-4-7	In the calculation of the PIs, a NIL report shall always recorded as “not received”. That needs to be highlighted to the states in the DMG report for the next METG meeting.	P. Simon	METG
DMG09-4-8	Present a WP for the next METG meeting on the subject that there is a missing provision on the time limit for issuing TAFs	P. Simon	METG
DMG09-7-1	Repeat the evaluation on the rwy state usage for one more cycle, during the next winter season	J. Funder	DMG11
DMG09-6-1	Analyse the monitoring tables to depict those bulletins containing a mixture of required and not required aerodromes and present a WP to the next DMG.	Herman	DMG10
DMG09-6-2	Provide an updated version of ROC London routing table to Johnny in order to include it in the RODC application	S. Dingle	DMG10
DMG09-6-3	WP for the next METG in order to explain the best practices for routing policy of OPMET data in Europe	ROCs	METG
DMG09-6-4	Investigate whether is possible to depict required data that is received via GTS only and not on AFTN. Herman will provide support (differentiate between DB monitoring and AFTN)	P. Simon W. Demol	
DMG09-6-5	Contact ICAO (C. Keohan) to seek advice on obtaining an inventory of the headers used for the SIGMET bulletins from all the ICAO regions. In addition, will compile such an inventory based on what has been received so far by Netherlands	A. den Uijl	DMG10
DMG09-6-6	Prepare WP on the NOC back-up procedures – guidelines to be followed when a NOC is not able to distribute its data via normal means.	S. Dingle	DMG10
DMG09-6-7	Prepare WP on the results of investigating the cases when ROCs remove routing of bulletins containing data circulated on bi-lateral agreement (data beyond FASID requirements).	W. Demol	DMG10
DMG09-6-8	Coordinate discussions on the possible progress with the RODC GUI development and inform DMG members during next DMG meeting	J. Funder	DMG10
DMG09-8-1	Prepare a draft of possible use cases for IWXXM concept and distribute them to the DMG members before the next IWXXM ConOps meeting	S. Dingle	DMG10