

AERONAUTICAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORK PANEL(ATNP)
WORKING GROUP 1/ 2/ 3
INFORMATION PAPER ON A JOINT EUROPEAN ACTIVITY

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Agenda Item : Any Other Business

ATN Compliant Communications European Strategy Study (ACCESS)

Prepared and presented
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Summary

This information paper gives a brief overview about a study that was conducted and finalized recently by a consortium of European Air Traffic Service Providers. The set of related documents including the final report will soon be made available to the public via the CENA-server.

For further inquiries refer to the consortium partners represented by the authors of this IP(brian.cardwell@nats.co.uk, ricci_christine@email.stna.dgac.fr, tbelitz@compuserve.com).

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1 OVERVIEW

The "ATN Compliant Communications - European Strategy Study" (ACCESS) project was undertaken between January 1997 and March 1999 by National Air Traffic Services Ltd (NATS), the Service Technique de la Navigation Aérienne (STNA) and the Deutsche Flugsicherung (DFS) and part-funded from the European Commission's programme for financial aid in the field of Trans-European Networks - Transport (TEN-T).

The main objectives of the study were:

1. development of an ATN Architecture,
2. development of an Implementation Plan in the European core area in conjunction with EUROCONTROL
3. conduction of interoperability and validation trials between States using ATN-compliant ATS Message Handling Services.

The geographical area considered in the ACCESS study comprised the following European countries: Belgium, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and the United Kingdom. However, the architectural principles proposed in this Study are also applicable to the whole European area.

The ACCESS study proposes a "Target ATN Architecture" for 2010 in a European core area including target ATN services, -infrastructure and -routing organisation. The purpose of first defining a Target Architecture for 2010 was to ensure that the design of a long term European ATN would be undertaken using principles that ensure optimal network performance into the future. Given an optimal Target Architecture to aim for, a transition path can be defined that directs local ATN development initiatives towards the Target Architecture, thus the separate elements of the network evolve within a co-ordinated design. From the starting point of an "Initial ACCESS ATN" this transition was described in a dedicated working package (WP 240, see table).

Whereas the above mentioned objectives (1) and (2) were reached by the study group, the objective (3) was not achieved but modified due to delay effects from associated European AMHS-projects.

The consortium decided to complete the definition work of ATSMHS Interoperability and Conformance testing. The result of this work is a framework for the establishment and conduction of interoperability trials between two or more AMHS implementations, and for specific conformance testing activities on individual AMHS equipments. This will expedite the efficient operational introduction of such systems in the future.

The produced documents serve as input for the EUROCONTROL lead ATN-Implementation Task Force which delivers technical input for the ongoing European LINK-programme (formerly known as "Link 2000+") and will be made available to the public¹ free of charge as soon as the final report is accepted by the European Commission. This is expected to occur during June 1999.

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¹ One access point for the study will be the CENA ftp-server.

2 LIST OF WORKING PACKAGES

WP No.	Title of Related Document
201	Current Communications Infrastructure
202	Define Geographic Area & Services
203	Routing Architecture - Option 1
203A	Routing Architecture - Option 2
204	Ground/Ground Subnetworks
205	Air/Ground Subnetworks
206	Addressing Plan
207	Performance Analysis & Dimensioning
208	Produce/Review/Consolidate ID 1
209	Selection of Routing Architecture
220	Third Party Service Provision
220A	Deployment Scenarios for A/G Subnetworks
221	Operational Scenarios
222	Security Issues
223	Safety Assessment/Certification
224	Institutional Issues
225	Accommodation of FANS 1 /A
226	Life Cycle Costs
227	Systems Management
228	Produce/Review/Consolidate ID 2
229	Review/Update ID 1
240	<i>Transition Planning (Interim Deliverable 3)</i>
260	Define Trials Objectives
261	Define Operating Scenarios
262	Produce Test Specification
263	Produce Test Schedule
264	Define Interoperability Test Tools
265	Configure Trials Scenario
266	Conduct ATSMHS Trials
267	Review/Consolidate/Prepare Interim Deliverable 4
270	ATSMHS Gateway Conformance Testing Requirement
271	ATSMHS Gateway Conformance Testing Specification
301	<i>Produce Final Report (Review & Consolidate)</i>